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PREFACE

TO many kind Northamptonshire friends I owe my thanks for their help in writing this little Guide—a work which has been spread over a considerable time, and which represents many pleasant visits to a fascinating bit of our green isle. First of all, I would acknowledge my indebtedness to Mr Albert Hartshorne, who has taken the greatest interest in the production of the book; then to Mr Charles Wise and Mr J. S. Shepard for their practical help in the collection or revision of material, which has necessitated journeys to out-of-the-way places and much comparing of notes. Miss Alice Dryden, Mr J. Alfred Gotch, the Rev. F. M. Stopford, Col. S. Stopford Sackville, Mr J. T. George, and Mr Ryland W. D. Adkins are others, whose knowledge of special subjects or districts has been freely given: and in this slight acknowledgment the memory of pleasant visits and delightful chats comes back vividly. With regard to the photographs, I have been specially fortunate in being able to use some particularly characteristic ones

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INTRODUCTION

I. Situation, Extent, and Boundaries

ONE of the most inland of English counties, Northamptonshire is a long oval strip, lying S.W. and N.E., bounded on the N. by Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, and Rutlandshire; on the S. by Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire; on the W. by Warwickshire; and on the E. by Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, and Bedfordshire. Its greatest length from Middleton Cheney (in the S.W.) to Newborough (in the N.E.) is 70 miles, while its width varies from a little over 7 miles in its narrowest place (Wansford to Duddington in the N.E.) to 25 miles in its widest (from Yardley Chase to the corner near Rugby), the average being about 17 miles. It lies between 51° 59′ and 52° 40′ N. latitude, and 0° 8′ and 1° 20′ W. longitude.

In point of size it is the twenty-second county, being about one-sixth the size of the largest (Yorkshire), and six times larger than Rutland (the smallest). Its area is 642,393 acres (rather more than 1000 square miles), of which a little over half is permanent pasture.

Some changes in the boundaries (which, except for those defined by the rivers, are

somewhat arbitrary) were made by the Local Government Act of 1888. The county gained by the taking from Huntingdon of the parishes of Luddington, Lutton, Thurning, and that part of Peterborough which was formerly assigned to that county. On the other hand, Huntingdon has gained part of Winwick, and Leicestershire has taken Little Bowden. No other county in England is touched by so many others—no fewer than nine bordering on Northamptonshire.

For Parliamentary representation the county is divided into four divisions—Northern, Eastern, Mid, and Southern. Each division returns two members. In addition, Northampton and Peterborough are boroughs, the former returning two members, the latter one, so that the total representation is seven members. For administrative purposes the county is divided into twenty hundreds. Ecclesiastically the county is in the diocese of Peterborough, which embraces Leicestershire and Rutland, subdivided into the two Archdeaconries of Northampton and Oakham, containing 340 parishes and portions of six others.

The county receives its name from its county town, called Ham tune or Ham town, set up by a tribe of the Saxons, to which the prefix North was subsequently added to distinguish it from the other Ham town on the Solent. Another Saxon name for it was Northafendon; and in Domesday, which records its division into thirty hundreds, it appears as Northanetone and Northamtunscire.

II. Geographical Features and Climate

"Spires and squires" is a phrase which has passed into the speech of the country, and aptly describes the particular features of this part of our isle. The wonderful expanse of grass land, capable also of rich cultivation, well watered, and, for the most part, devoid of hills and rocks, attracted the yeomen graziers who, by a simple process of selection, chose convenient spots for the building of their dwellings; and while the wild animal life of central England lasted—and there was sport to be had in abundance—the immense tracts of forest were a further attraction. Then as wealth flowed in, men turned, in the process of time, to the building of churches, the materials for which, like the springs which ensure an unfailing supply of water, were due to the natural geological formation of the land.

The surface may therefore be described as undulating, and even to-day well-wooded. Containing no popular resort for the delectation of the holiday-maker, and no huge manufacturing towns to send forth the all-necessary but often terrible suburb on all sides, this county retains the almost unique charm of being "in the country"; that is to say, that while its population is far from declining, it is, outside its large two or three towns and half a dozen big villages, concerned entirely with rural activities. Here one may see the country life lived practically in all its very far from uninteresting completeness.

The high ground in the W. portion looks over the great central plain of the Midlands, and within the borders of the county the principal watersheds of central England are contained. The average height of the land is about 300 feet above sea-level; while in the W. part towards Warwickshire the highest hills occur. These are Arbury and the neighbouring hills (804 ft.) and Naseby. These are Honey Hill, which rises from the Naseby upland, all upon the western table land, from where the county slopes towards the E. of the faces of the three ranges of hills which traverse the county. One ridge begins to be noticeable at Duddington, running along the N. border, turning S. at Watford (by Kilsby Hill, under which the N.W. Railway runs a considerable distance) down towards Woodford. In this direction (the S. and S.W.) the land is most broken and varied; and between Woodford and Staverton are grouped such slight eminences as Bore Hill, Righton, Blackdown, Hinton, and Long Furrow. From this corner run two other ridges of high ground, one to the Bucks border, passing N. of Towcester, and the other almost due S., forming the watershed of the Cherwell, one of the feeders of the Thames, which it joins at Oxford.

In the direction of Peterborough the great Fen Country, now for the most part reclaimed and drained, begins to be touched upon, with its flat but by no means unpleasant prospect, broken up as it is by villages and clumps of trees; while the centre and E. portions, if flat, and to some

minds perhaps uninteresting from the point of view of scenery, make up with its woodlands and its open stretch of country a far from dull or monotonous landscape.

From two great watersheds the county distributes its streams in every direction, and the county receives no streams other than its own. From the watershed lying between Brackley and Banbury rise the Cherwell (at Charwelton, 5 miles S.W. of Daventry), the Ouse (at Ousewell near Brackley), the Leam (at Hellidon, S.W. of Daventry), and the Tow (near Sulgrave away in the S.E. corner). From Naseby and the adjacent high ground flow the Nene, which is formed by the union of two streams at Northampton (the N. one rising at Chapelwell, Naseby, and the other at Hartwell near Staverton), the Welland (at Sibbertoft), and the Avon (near Naseby).

From Fotheringay to Peterborough the Nene, which is navigable at Northampton, forms the boundary between the county and that of Huntingdon. Its length within the county is about 60 miles, and it receives three streams on its left bank—the Ise, Harper's Brook, and Willow Brook. The Welland for some 50 miles similarly marks the boundary between the county and those of Leicester, Rutland, and Lincoln, and the sea eventually receives it through the Wash at Boston.

From its inland situation and absence of high hills, the climate of the county is very equable and decidedly healthy. If not so dry as

Cambridgeshire it compares favourably with the counties lying further W. The average rainfall (23 in.) is two in. more than London; and in comparison with the same place, its mean annual temperature is practically the same (49.5°).

The air has always been looked upon as very salubrious, especially during the last century, since the fen lands in the north of the county have been drained. Morton, as was the wont of the old writers, gives its air most wonderful and health-giving properties, and the insurance offices at one time compiled their tables from Northampton bills of mortality.

In the matter of rainfall Morton tells us that in his time (*circa* 1700) rain fell in much greater quantities in the hilly part of the county, *i.e.* in the S.W., than in the districts towards Stamford and Peterborough. The meteorological records at the present day still bear this out, for whereas in the highlands of Watford and Daventry the average yearly rainfall was 32.39 and 30.18, it sank at Peterborough to 23.08 and at Oundle to 22.52, or an average for the entire county of 26.70.

The following are some of the variations in the rainfall:—

Daventry, . . .	30.18
Northampton, . .	29.24
Kettering, . . .	26.0
Wellingborough, . .	24.0
Peterborough, . .	23.06

Oundle, . . .	22.52
Welford, . . .	32.39

The favour accorded to the county by the early Norman and subsequent kings was due to its huge tracts of forest land. To be within a walled castle, surrounded by a well-nigh inaccessible forest, was no small advantage in days of sudden change and disaster. Thus the castles erected at Northampton and Rockingham were much frequented by William Rufus and his successors. Rockingham Forest was, at the time of its greatest extent, possibly the greatest in the kingdom. Whittlebury Forest, which occupies the S. corner (extending in detached bits into Bucks and Oxford), came next in extent, while both Salcey and Yardley Chase (in the S.E.) were of considerable size.

III. Geology

Stretching across England, in a N.E. direction, from the Dorsetshire coast to the Wash, and thence northwards to the coast of Yorkshire, is the great Jurassic Belt, lying between the Trias and the Weald Clay, composed of the Oolitic and Liassic strata. If no hills of importance occur along the line of this formation, it is nowhere actually level; and at Naseby, and in the direction of the Warwickshire border of the county, there is a tableland which forms the principal watershed of central England. The position of Northamptonshire,

lying as it does from S.W. to N.E., corresponds with the direction or strata; and as the dip of the formation is to the S.E., considerable overlaying may be observed.

Upon the Lias rests the Oolite, consisting of the Inferior and the Great. Except for the predominance of the Lower Lias in the N.W. corner of the county, the Oolite prevails; and in this is found the ironstone, building stone, and slate which forms the mineral wealth of the county, while in the alternation of clay and limestone much porous sand is seen, the reason for those many springs which have given rise to the phrase, "Springs, spires, and squires," which aptly conveys the general characteristics of the county. Of the Oolite beds, the lowest is the Northamptonshire Sand, in thickness about 80 feet, in the lower part of which the ironstone occurs, and is present in its greatest quantity in the vicinity of Northampton. The ore contains about 40 per cent. of the metal, and although it was known and made use of in early British and Roman days, the quarrying has been chiefly done since 1859. It is of the same character as that found in Yorkshire, in the Middlesborough and Cleveland districts. In conjunction with it a good deal of building stone is also found.

The upper division of the sand is, practically, a layer of siliceous sand united with clay, often sufficiently combined to form a useful building-stone. Frequent occurrence of wave marks, with remains of both marine and freshwater

shells, point to the river or littoral origin of this formation. The presence of iron is also due to the agency of water, charged with the metal mainly in the form of a carbonate, percolating through. Near the surface, this carbonate has become oxidised in process of time, and the layers which are found and worked is one of the higher oxides combined with water.

Above the low division of the sand is the limestone and slate, the former of which, from its increasing width as it progresses towards Lincolnshire, receives the name of that county. The limestone was worked from time immemorial in the famous quarries of Barnack, being known as Barnack Rag and Keston Freestone from very early days. In its lowest portions the limestone is capable of being split into thin layers, and is called Collyweston Slate, largely used for roofing both houses and churches all over the county.

Coming to the Great Oolite, the lower of the four divisions is a sandy clay which rests, where the continuation of the limestone layer mentioned above is absent, upon the Northampton Sand. It is much used for brickmaking. The Great Oolite limestone, which is the next layer, is found largely in the S., in the neighbourhood of Radston ; it is used for lime burning. In the neighbourhood of Peterborough, a harder and shelly variety occurs, capable of taking a polish, and goes by the names of "Alwalton" and "Forest" marble. Dotted over the Great Oolite limestone is a somewhat

moist soil formed of the Oolite Clays, which differ much in colour and thickness. They are not found in the southern portion of the county. Above this is the Oxford Clay, and in the northern portion a ferruginous limestone, called Cornbrash, appears as the last bed of the lower Oolite.

Immediately below the Oolite is the thick bed of Lias, the name given to a strata of clay, shale, and limestone, which runs across the country in the same direction as the series just described. It has three divisions, the Lower Lias, mainly blue clay, of a depth averaging 550 feet, practically forming the basis of the western part of the county, on which side the lowest beds are to be met with. In this direction the ground is flat and mainly pasture. The river Nene in its upper part has cut its way down to this Lower Lias.

The next section, the Middle Lias, is also known as Marlestone, and is somewhat rocky in composition, owing to the presence of ferruginous limestone. In the northern part of the county it is only a thin layer, but it thickens towards the S.W. From this strata the numerous springs which are such a feature of the county take their rise, and the town of Northampton receives its water-supply from a deep well in the Marlestone. This strata yields good building stone, which takes a reddish-brown hue on exposure to the air, owing to the oxidation of the iron it contains. The uppermost layer of the Lias is a band of soft clay, in places 200 feet

in thickness. It has been much worked for brick-making, and most of the rivers have cut their way down to it (the Tove, for instance, and the others which flow in an easterly direction).

The geology of the county has been exhaustively dealt with by the geological survey which was completed in 1864, in connection with which a map (coloured in the S. and central portions) was prepared, to which Messrs Green, Aveline, and Hull contributed explanatory and descriptive matter. Two well-known authorities are Professor Judd (who rectified the classification of the Lincolnshire Limestone and Northamptonshire Sand from the Great Oolite—to which they had been previously assigned, to the Inferior) and Mr E. S. Sharpe, who has formed a wonderfully complete and representative collection of the local fossils.

Morton says that no county in England affords a greater variety of building stone than Northamptonshire, or excels it in goodness and plenty. This was no doubt true in his day, but since then several of the quarries then celebrated have ceased to be worked. In his time (1700) the principal quarries were Harleston, Helmdon, Rance (Raunds), and Weldon, and of these only the last has survived. Barnack Quarry, perhaps the largest of any inland place in the kingdom, which had been for many centuries famous as having furnished the stone for the abbeys of Peterborough, Crowland, Thorney, and Ramsey, was already worked out. The great Weldon

quarries have been famous for nearly as long a period, and they seem of late years to have taken a new lease of existence. Bridges remarks of them that "they are very ancient stone quarries, of so hard a texture as to admit a polish equal to Italian marble." Old St Paul's Cathedral, before the fire of London, was said to have been built of Weldon stone, though the carriage in those early days must have been a difficulty. Boughton House and Kirby Hall, in the immediate neighbourhood, were also built of it.

It is constantly met with in the old county mansions where there are to be found many slabs and mantelpieces made from it. Both the Barnack and Weldon were freestone. The Harleston quarries were of so ancient an origin that Merton even attempted to derive the name Harleston from the Saxon, but without much success. From its colour, it was called "red stone" by the early quarrymen, but it was really an ironstone which imparts a warm rich tint to buildings. The quarries are no longer worked, but are still productive at New Duston, two miles away. A good deal of limestone is also dug about here to mix with the ironstone as a flux for smelting purposes.

Northampton Field used to produce a soft, light-coloured stone from which many buildings of the town, after the great fire, were erected. The neighbouring Kingsthorpe Quarry is still worked, and from it were built the General Infirmary, the Barracks, Northampton, and many mansions. The Helmdon quarries have not

been worked for many years, save for local requirements.

Culworth in the S. had formerly a white paving stone which was often used alternately with the black stone of Byfield for paving floors in imitation of black and white marbles.

The Collyweston slate quarries were celebrated throughout the neighbouring counties for many centuries. Camden in his Britannia alludes to the industry, and Morton says "that the meanest houses in every town or village thereabouts are slated with it, and so white and fine when new is it that on a bright day it pleasingly affects the eye of a traveller." When toned down by age and covered with mosses and lichens its æsthetic colours cannot fail nowadays to delight the artist and wayfarer through the valley of the Welland. The industry is still carried on, though on a reduced scale, and at the neighbouring Easton-on-the-Hill, the production of which is rather more esteemed.

Brick Clay is found plentifully throughout the county, and this is especially the case near the large towns. In the seventeenth century Northampton was celebrated for its tobacco pipe clay, only two localities in England being more noted. In Morton's time it was found close to Abington Park wall, at a depth of from 2 to 6 feet. In old days there were two potteries in the county, one at Oakley Bank (Plumpton) and the other at Pottersbury, which must have been of great antiquity, as it gave the distinguishing title to the village.

Northamptonshire is especially rich in the series of vertebrate fossils, an enormous number of remains of extinct reptiles and fishes having been obtained from the Oxford Clay near Peterborough. They belong for the most part to the marine fish lizards or Ichthyopterygia, which differ only from the typical Ichthyosaurus by the presence of an additional bone in the paddles. There are also several varieties of the long-necked Saurians or Sauropterygia. Remains of the Pliosaurs have constantly occurred, and not improbably those of the true Plesiosaurus, so common in the Huntingdonshire Clay, may be expected in our own county, and the same may be said of crocodiles belonging to the extinct genera, Sachodus, Steneosaurus, and Metriorhynchus.

In the mammals of the prehistoric age, Northamptonshire is hardly so rich. In a clay bed near Duston, the aurochs (*Bostaurus primigenius*), red-deer (*Cervus elaphus*), wild horse (*Equus caballus fossilis*), and the wild swine (*Sus scrofa*) were discovered; and in an underlying bed of gravel were molars of the mammoth (*Elephas primigenius*), the straight-tusked elephant (*E. antiquus*), the hippopotamus (*H. amphibius*), and the woolly rhinoceros (*R. antiquitatis*), several of these being in the British Museum.

In the Great Oolite, remains of the long-snouted crocodile (*Steneosaurus brevidens*) are not uncommon, and bones of the *S. chapmani* and *S. latifrono* have been found in the Upper

Lias. From near Blisworth two caudal vertebræ of a Dinosaur (*Cardiodon oxoniensis*) were obtained by the British Museum, and teeth of the great Carnivorous Dinosaur (*Megalosaurus Bucklandi*) found in the Duston Inferior Oolite. A vertebra of Ichthyosaurus was got from the Upper Lias at Blisworth in 1837. Fossils of fish are not abundant, at least in a determinable form. The pavement-toothed shark (*Cestraciontidæ*) have been found in the Cornbrash and Great Oolite of two varieties of the well-known Lepidoturus. A ganoid, peculiar to the Northamptonshire Inferior Oolite, is *Ophiopsis flesheri*, the type specimen being obtained in the Blisworth railway tunnel. The pycnodont ganoids, which have numerous crushing teeth, are represented in the county by two specimens of the genus Mesodon (*M. rugulosus* and *M. Bucklandi*) from the Great Oolite.

The vertebrate fossils of the Northamptonshire Oolites have been worked out in great detail by Mr Samuel Sharpe, and full lists are to be found in the Quarterly Journals of the Geological Society, 1870 and 1873. Ammonites and belemnites abound in the rocks of the Secondary or Mesozoic period. Among the characteristic fossils of the Oxford Clay is the great hemispherical oyster (*Gryphæa dilatata*). In the Cornbrash at Rushden, covered forty years ago, occur the oysters (*Ostræa marshi*), the bivalves (*Pholadomya bucardium*, *Avicula echinata*, *Gresslya peregrina*, and *Majacites securis formis*), while the

small sea-urchins (*Echinobrosus Clunicularis*) is very common.

Fossils are rare in the clays of the Great Oolite, but in its limestone formation they are plentiful and contain a large proportion of gastropod molluscs, which include representatives of the extinct genera, Alaria, Amberleya, Nerinœa, Chemnitzia, and Trochotoma, with species of the still existing Natica, Phasianella, and Pleutomaria. Cephalopods are less common, and among the characteristic bivalves are a scallop (*Pecten lens*), the cockle (*Cardium Stricklandi*), the Arca-like (*Cucullœa concinna* and *Macrodon Kirsonensis*), with several commoner species. Among plant remains, mention may be made of the fruits described as Carpolithes and *Caida carpum ooliticum*. Altogether the fauna of the Great Oolite presents a distinctly sub-tropical aspect.

The Collyweston slate beds have many well-defined species among them, the characteristic *Pteroceras bentleyi*, and in the uppermost beds a fern (*Pecopteris polypodioides*), with its fronds in fructification, is abundant.

The fossils of the Northamptonshire Upper and Lower Lias are of a distinctly less local type, with yet a few characteristic shells in the latter, *Ammonites communis*, *A. serpentinus*, and in the transition to the Marlstone beds, of *A. acutus*. It has also several peculiar bivalves, such as the Lias oyster (*Ostrea liassica*) and the curved gryphite (*Gryphœa iucurva*), the devil's toe-nail of the quarrymen.

IV. Flora and Fauna

Northamptonshire does not compare favourably with some of its neighbours for the number of botanical specimens found within its borders. Mr G. C. Druce, the able writer of the chapter on the botany of the district in the Victoria History of the county, gives the number of species which have come under his observation in Northamptonshire as 830, among them being 28 denizens and 37 colonists. But a complete investigation has not yet been made, so that there is still a field open for the energetic collector.

Many causes combine to account for this poverty, one of the principal being the great extent of the county under cultivation. No other county except Middlesex has so small an extent of commons or waste ground. The conditions of vegetation have also changed greatly during the last half century. The commons have nearly all been enclosed and the extensive forests of the county have shrunk to a comparatively small acreage. Not only this, but their vegetation has been, as it were, modernised, and it is only in the remains of the older forests that any great variety of woodland plants are to be found. Heath exists only in small patches, so that even the typical blaeberry has quite disappeared. Indeed, many of the common plants found in most of the adjoining counties, such as the climbing heath fumitory, the water avens (found quite close to our borders), the poisonous water dropwort, the creeping forget-me-not, are not

now included, though they doubtless occurred in former times and may be still re-discovered. Peat and boggy ground, which produces so many of the uliginous plants, is altogether absent from the county, and with it such common specimens as the chaff-weed, the all-seed, most of the sedges, the Lancashire asphodel, the creeping willow, and others. As Northamptonshire has but few, save artificial, sheets of water, many lacustrine plants are lacking, and the sluggish streams afford a small variety of water weeds. Hedge-cutting, however useful to agriculture, has caused the prickly eryngo (*Eryngium Campestre*), formerly plentiful near Brockhall, to disappear. The railways, too, that traverse the county in all directions have introduced many fresh additions to the flora, and a railway embankment often gives a better idea of the botany of the district than the surrounding cultivated land.

For botanical purposes, Northamptonshire may be divided into *seven* districts, based upon the drainage of its various rivers, all of which rise within its own area, though their outlets are widely separated.

1. The Avon or Leam occupies a narrow strip on the north-western side of the county. It occupies high ground, and there is much ground that should promise well for new species, especially the highlands near Barby, Sibbertoft, and West Haddon. Among the species recorded in this district are :—

Thlapsi arvense
Montia fontana
Spergula sativa
Cytisus scoparius
Genista anglica (probably extinct)
Melilotus officinalis
Orobus tuberosus
Rubus echinatus
Rubus argentatus
Rubus diversifolius
Adoxa moschatellina
Galium Cruciata
Chrysanthemum segotum
Pedicularis sylvatica
Lamium Galeobdolon
Mentha longifolia
Scleranthus annuus
Chenopodium Bonus-Henricus
Populus alba
Salix rubra
Potamogeton alpinus
Triglochin palustre
Fritillaria Meleagris (not recently recorded)
Sparganium neglectum
Carex paniculata
Festuca Myurus
Phyllitis Scolopendrium
Polystichum aculeatum
Ophioglossum vulgatum
Chara hispida
Tolypella prolifera

2. The Cherwell district is a much more interesting one, as the geological formation offers considerable variation, and some small bogs near Evenley furnish some interesting grasses, notably :—Parnassus grass (*Parnassia palustris*) and *Molinia varia*. Also the marsh thistle (*Cnicus pratensis*), the marsh dropwort (*Œnanthe Lachenalii*), and the butterwort (*Pinguicula, vulgaris*). About Aynho is found the wall lettuce (*Latuca Muralis*) and near Croughton *Rubus mucronatus*, *Daphe Mezereum*, *Brachypodium pinnatum*, and *Bromus Erectus*. In a spinney near Newbottle the dame's violet (*Hesperis matronalis*) is naturalised. In the hedges may be sometimes

found *Rosa glanca* and *R. coriifolia*. In the lake at Astrop Park occur the mare's-tail (*Hippuris vulgaris*), the milfoil (*Myriophyllum verticillatum*), and the horned milfoil (*Ceratophyllum*. The Cherwell between Aynho and Chalcombe has the rare pond-weeds, *Potamogeton alpinus* and *P. polygonifolius*. Near Canons Ashby the barberry is rather plentiful, and also the navelwort (*Cotyledon Umbilicus*) on the old walls. Near Steane, Four Slips Copse yields among other species the hard fern (*Lomaria spicans*), the lady fern (*Athyrium filix-fœmina*), the broad shield fern (*Dryopterus dilatata*), the bog bedstraw (*Galium ulignosum*), and several sorts of brambles.

3. The Ouse district takes in the area drained by the Ouse and Tove and the woodland district of Whittlebury, in which, curiously enough, the common bracken is practically absent. Orchids are rare; but the fly orchis (*Orphrys muscifera*) has been found, as well as the butterfly orchis (*Habenaria bifolia*). A coppice near Towcester has the Solomon's laurel (*Polygonatum multiflorum*) and the spurge laurel (*Daphne Laureola*), and in the vicinity at Tiffield is to be found the beautiful throat-wort (*Campanula latifolia*).

The sides of the Grand Junction Canal furnish the butter-cress (*Cardamine amara*) and the graceful wood club-rush (*Scirpus sylvaticus*). In a steep cutting of the London and North-Western Railway, two ferns—the limestone polypody and the brittle bladder-fern—have

been introduced, with many other adventitious species from other districts. In the brickwork of many a village well the hart's-tongue fern (*Phyllitis Scolopendrium*) may now and then be found.

4. The Welland district, from Sibbertoft, where the river rises, runs down to the Lincolnshire border, and is the most interesting botanical ground in the county. On the hills about Sibbertoft have been found the yellow Star of Bethlehem (*Gagia fascicularis*) and the everlasting pea (*Lathyrus silvestris*). The woods of Wakerley are very rich, and yield the small-leaved lime (*Tilia ulmifolia*) as a native tree, the crested cow-wheat (*Melampyrum cristatum*), the yellow cow-wheat (*M. pratensis*), the herb Paris (*Paris quadrifolia*), the hound's-tongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), the caper-spurge (*Euphorbia Lathyris*), the yellow archangel (*Lamium Galeobdolon*), the wood-ruff (*Asperula odorata*), the wood-gromwell (*Lithospermum officinale*), the orpine (*Sedum Telephium*), and the ploughman's spikenard (*Mula Conyza*). In Gretton Woods is the lady's mantle (*Alchemilla vulgaris*, var *filicaulis*), and in the fragment of Rockingham Forest that remains the mistletoe and the bear's-foot (*Helleborus viridis*) have been found.

The old quarries of Barnack and Southorpe and Collyweston (now grass-grown) contain very many interesting species, some of which were there in 1650. Among these are the pasque flower (*Anemone pulsatilla*), the base

rocket (*Reseda lutea*), the small crane's-bill (*Geranium pusillum*), the spotted cat's-ear (*Hypocheris maculata*), the man orchis (*Aceras anthropophora*), the pyramidal orchis (*O. pyramidalis*), the frog orchis (*Habenaria viridis*), the spider (*Orchis arinifera*) (extinct), and the grasses—*Avena pubescens*, *Apratensis*, *Bromus erectus*, *Brachypodium pinnatum*, and *Festina ovina*.

The roadsides of Barnack and Wakerley have yielded the hairy bladder campion (*Silene Cucubalus*), the tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*), the elecampane (*Mula Helenium*), the black mullein (*Verbascum nigrum*), the wild licorice (*Astragalus glycyphyllos*), the clustered bell-flower, and others. The downy woundwort was formerly to be found in some quarries near Fineshade, and the broom-rape (*Orabanche major*, L.) has been gathered at Easton-on-the-Hill. The flora of Wothorp Grove is very varied and has the viper's bugloss (*Echium vulgare*), the wood poa (*Poa nemoralis*), the melicgrass (*Melica uniflora*), and the dog couch grass (*Agrophyron caninum*).

On the Stamford racecourse grows luxuriantly the dyer's weed (*Genista tinctoria*) and the horse-shoe vetch (*Hippocrepis comosa*), while the pyramidal orchis and blue milk vetch are very common.

5. The Nene or Naseby district comprises the district drained by the Nene on its course from Naseby to Northampton, and the three smaller branches of the same river. It covers a

very large area, with a great diversity of soil, and affords some interesting hunting ground in its borders. The picturesque Woods of Badby afford a pleasing variety of plants rare in other parts of the county, among them the blinks (*Montia fontana*), the foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), the rampions (*Campanula Rapunculus*), the sweet-scented mountain-fern (*Dryopterus montana*), the raspberry (*Rubus idoeus*), the upright St John's worts (*Hypericum humifusum* and *pulchrum*), and many others.

The highest ground in the county, at Arbury and Staverton hills, is the home of many species of brambles and ferns (*Dyopteris dilatata*) and the hair grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*). On Borough Hill, near Daventry, an ancient camp, are to be found many local species: the sheepsbit scabious (*Jasione montana*), the English catch-fly (*Silene anglica*), as also the burnet rose (*Rosa spinosissima*), the downy rose (*R. mollissima*), and many hawk-weeds, brambles, and grasses.

Farthingstone Castle dykes have the record of the orphine (*Sedum Telephium*), the daffodil, the bell-flower (doubtful), the golden saxifrage (*Chrysoplenium*), and the willow herb (*Epilobium obscurum*). In Stowe Wood the beautiful wood vetch (*Vica sylvatica*) is a very local species, and the great horsetail (*Equisetum maximum*) may be found.

One of the most favourable spots for botanists in the county is Dallington Heath, with the adjoining Harleston Firs, close to Northampton,

and always accessible to students by the kindness of Earl Spencer. Among its record of plants are the upright pearlwort (*Cerastium quaternellum*), the sandwort (*Buda rubra*), the rose of Sharon (*Hypericum calycinum*), the hemlock-leaved stork's-bill (*Erodium cicutarium*), the hare's-foot trefoil (*Trifolium arvense*), the mulleins (*Verbascum virgatum* and *V. Thapsus*), and many varieties of brambles, grasses, and mosses.

Hunsbury Hill, a pre-Roman camp overlooking Northampton, now under cultivation, has afforded the mouse-tail (*Myosurus minimus*), the Danewort (*Sambucus Ebulus*), the darnel (*Lolium temulentum*), the rent mint (*Mentha rubra*), and the marsh stitchwort (*Stellaria palustris*). In Salcey Forest occur the leopard's bane (*Doronicum Pardalianches*), but not native, the wild tulip (*Tulipa silvestris*), and the great burnet saxifrage (*Pimpinella major*). The Kingsthorpe meadows, near Northampton, were formerly the place of growth of the snake's-head (*Fritillaria Meleagris*), the meadow saffron (*Colchicum autumnale*), and the bur. marigolds (*Bidens Cernua* and *B. tripartita*). Some of the ironstone quarries have more or less native species, among them the wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*), the white mignonette (*Reseda alba*), and the feverfew (*Chrysanthemum Parthenium*). Some boggy ground near Foxhall yields the marsh valerian (*Valeriana dioica*), the bog pimpernel (*Anagallis tenella*), the marsh speedwell (*Veronica scutellata*), the marsh orchis (*Orchis latifoila*), the fragrant orchis (*Habenuria*

conopsea), and various sedges. The marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*) occurs near Holdenby.

6. The second Nene district is that drained by the main stream of the Nene between Northampton and Oundle, with the Harper's Brook, which starts near Geddington, and, passing through Geddington Chase and Brigstock, joins the Nene at Aldwinkle. There are many woods in its limits, but the commons are very much diminished in area since Morton's time, when many plants now extinct were to be found.

Yardley Chase, where yet stand "Cowper's Oak" and "Gog and Magog," yields some interesting species — the hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), that is probably native, and, in roaming through its sylvan glades, one meets with the beam tree (*Pyrus aria*), the fly honeysuckle (*Lonicera Xylosteum*), the woodruff (*Asperula odorata*), the shepherd's rod (*Dipsacus pilosus*), the tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*), the yellow bird's nest (*Hypopitys Monotropa*), the snowdrop (*Golanthus nivolis*), the ramsons (*Allium ursinum*), the bird's-nest orchis (*Neottia Nidus avis*), and many grasses. Swell Wood and Pytchley Copses afford the saw-wort (*Serratula tinctoria*), the cotton grass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*), and the adder's-tongue fern (*Ophioglossum Vulgatum*). Billing Lings had formerly, as the name denotes, ling (*Calluna*) within its borders, and heather (*Erica cinerea*), and traces may still remain, as also of the buck's-horn plantain (*Plantago Coronopus*). Overstone yields the tuberous moschatel (*Adoxa Moschatellina*),

the small valerian (*Vodioica*), and the lady fern, but the marsh fern (*Dryopteris Thelypteris*) is now extinct.

Kettering Links and a heath near Thorpe Malsor are now in small compass, and many of their occupants have disappeared since Morton's time, such as the upright pearlwort (*Cerastium Quaternellum*), the heath cudweed (*Guaphalium sylvaticum*), the field gentian (*Gentiana campestris*), and the garlic (*Allium vineole*), but some of them may still linger.

7. The Willow Brook district is that traversed by the Nene from Oundle to beyond Peterborough, and the Willow brook, which rises in the old forest of Rockingham, drains the woods of Corby and Gretton and the parks of Deene and Blatherwycke, passes by King's Cliffe and Wood Newton, and falls into the Nene near Elton. A little to the east is another small stream which drains the Bedford purlieus, Wittering Heath, and Southorpe Bog, the two latter the richest botanising district in the county.

Forest land occupies a large space, and the flora, especially of the Bedford purlieus, is very attractive. Lilies of the valley (*Convollaria Majalis*) occur perhaps here alone in the county, and there is a melic grass (*Melua Nutans*) not found nearer to the south. About King's Cliffe are the tutsan (*Hypericum Androsæmum*), the service tree (*Pyrus Torminalis*), the spider orchis (*Ophrys aranifera*), and the wood hound's-tongue (*Cynoglossum montanum*). In this watershed alone are found the bogrush (*Schœnus nigricans*),

the sedge (*Carex dioica*), the local sedge (*Carex elata*), and the bay-leaved willow (*Salix pentandra*).

The fen ditches are often full of the water violet (*Hottonia palustris*) and the celery-leaved buttercup (*Ranunculus scelleratus*), and the water soldier (*Stratiotes Aloides*), used, it is said, to grow in them. The reclaiming of the Fens have robbed us of many specimens formerly plentiful. On the walls of Peterborough Cathedral used to be found the pennywort, now extinct; but the red valerian, the white stone crop, the great snapdragon, and the ivy-leaved snapdragon still linger there.

About 220 specimens of mosses are recorded for the county, but the peat mosses are almost entirely absent. The *fungi* of the district were the subject of extensive study by the late Rev. M. I. Berkeley, but a list of local forms has not yet been drawn up. One interesting fact is that truffles of an esculent variety exist in the county, and though not vying with the French black truffle, are of a most delicate flavour.

There is nothing peculiar to Northamptonshire in either its mammals or its birds. John Morton, the author of the "Natural History of Northamptonshire," has done for the county what Gilbert White did for Selborne, and there is an admirable work on the birds by Lord Lilford; while the Rev. H. H. Slater has contributed an excellent chapter on the subject to the Victoria County History. A century ago, before the Nene Navigation scheme was effected

and the Fen district reclaimed, the county must have offered an interesting field for the ornithologist, the bittern, ruff, and avocet being constant visitors; while the kite, raven, buzzard, and hen-harrier were to be found in the large forests of which Salcey, Whittlebury, and Rockingham remain as considerable tracts.

Lord Lilford has given the number of feathered visitors to the county which have come under his own observation as 227, including the golden and white-tailed eagle, the great and little bustard, and the great northern diver, two specimens of which have been observed near Northampton. Mr Slater reduces this number to 213, as some of those included in Lord Lilford's list occurred outside the boundaries of the county.

The red deer, the wild cat, the harvest mouse, and the pine martin, though extinct, have only become so within the last fifty years or so; while the polecat was to be found even later than this. Mr Ryland W. D. Atkins considers that the fallow deer now in the parks at Boughton, Deene, Rockingham, Blatherwyke, Carlton, and Milton are undoubtedly the old forest breed. Mr J. Whittaker, in his "Deer Parks and Paddocks of England" (1892), gives the fallow deer in the county as about 3125, and red deer 150, of which the largest number, 100, were in Whittlebury.

The extensive woodlands in the county offer a good field to the collector of butterflies, moths, and beetles, two comparatively rare species of

BLATHERWYKE BRIDGE

Lepidoptera — the black hairstreak and the chequered skipper — being fairly common. There are two rare species of bat in the county, the barbastelle and the serotine. The brown trout is fairly plentiful in most of the streams, but not in the Nene. Carp have occasionally been taken in the Nene. Pike and roach are plentiful, but bream is practically confined to the Nene.

V. Antiquities

From an archæological point of view, Northamptonshire compares very favourably with most English counties. From the fact that in early days the county was one vast forest fringed with marshes, with some high ground toward the centre, the remains, as may be supposed, of the Neolithic and Bronze Ages are scanty. Of late years, however, many more localities than the nine mentioned by Sir John Evans in his well-known book on Ancient Stone Implements, as providing remains, have come to light, and the places now mentioned as showing Neolithic remains amount to 32. The finds chiefly consist of polished celts or axes, and they have been found at Northampton, Gretton, King's Sutton, Everdon, Towcester, Castor, and Eye. Flint arrow-heads have been found at Duston and Oundle, and worked flints at Borough Hill, Hunsbury Hill, Blisworth, Moulton, and elsewhere. Burials of this period have come to

light at Houghton and Norton. No traces of Neolithic dwelling-places have been discovered, but it is almost certain that the camps at Borough Hill, Arbury Hill, and Rainsborough were begun at this period.

Of bronze weapons and implements a good specimen of a leaf-shaped sword and a handled cup of reddish earthenware of this period—notable as being one out of the four or five specimens in existence—were found at Brixworth.

Hunsbury Hill—known locally as Danes Camp—stands on a ridge of high ground, two and a half miles to the S.W. of Northampton, and is an important and particularly interesting specimen of a late Celtic Camp. It was thoroughly excavated in 1883 by a Company who were working for ironstone, and a rich harvest of pottery and ironwork was obtained and is now in the Northampton Museum. The objects included a very fine sword with portions of a bronze mounted scabbard, and the pottery is specially interesting as showing portions decorated with the characteristic spiral ornament of the late Celtic period. This valuable collection throws a great deal of light on the condition of the ancient Briton before the Roman conquest; and a noteworthy feature of the find is that, with the exception of two of the articles, the whole of it belonged to the people who occupied the camp.

In addition to Hunsbury Hill there are undoubted pre-Roman camps at Arbury Hill (near Thenford), Rainsborough, and Borough

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Hill (near Daventry). More than forty specimens of British coins have been found, the most interesting—a gold one of the Brigantes—having been discovered near Corby. From Hunsbury Hill on the S.W., by Arbury Hill, and on towards Banbury, runs an old Lane which is undoubtedly an ancient British track-way, and has been used continuously to the present day for the driving of cattle, forming a most interesting example of the way in which roads came first to be made.

Coming to the Roman period, the county contains no large towns built on Roman sites like York or Chester. The only place of importance was Durobrivæ, the modern Castor, where extensive potteries were in existence, and which still forms a most promising field for antiquarian research. The Castor ware varied very much in character and quality, but the most usual was that made from a whitish paste coloured a dull slate or reddish brown hue. The pieces that remain show vessels ornamented with thumb marks or indentations of the potter with incisions by way of a pattern on the resulting ridges. Others have a definite foliage design, sometimes incised and sometimes laid on in "slip." Others again show animals and fishes; while particularly characteristic are those which have hunting scenes, such as dogs chasing stags or hares. Several good specimens found at Castor and the immediate vicinity are in the Peterborough Museum.

Towcester and Irchester were of Roman

origin, the latter place having furnished some interesting finds. Duston, near Northampton, continues to yield remains from the ironstone workings, and among the finds have been a silver bowl and a bronze bust of Lucius Verus. Roman villas have been found in considerable numbers scattered over the county, the more extensive remains having been found at Apethorpe, Cotterstock, Daventry, Ashton, Weldon, Raunds, Heyford, Whittlebury, and Chipping Warden.

Of the great Roman roads, both the Watling and Ermine Streets crossed the county. The greater part of the former is in use to the present day, but beyond Weedon it is mostly grass-grown. Its itinerary stations were at Lactodorum (Towcester), Bannavento (near Norton), and Tripontium (near Lilbourne). The Ermine Street passed to the W. of Castor through Burleigh Park to Stamford. Several branches called Long Dykes diverged to the N.E. and crossed into Lincolnshire by Lolham Briggs. Roman pavements, some of them of great beauty, have been obtained from a great number of localities along the routes.

In Anglo-Saxon antiquities Northamptonshire is fairly rich, and especially so with regard to burial-places. There were two at Northampton and two at Brixworth. Others have come to light at Holdenby, Newnham, Badby, Norton, Pitsford, Woodford, Addington, Thenford, Marston St Lawrence, Islip, and Barton Seagrave. In these, pottery and many brooches and ornaments have been the principal finds. In

1876 a very handsome necklace of gold beads, with bugles and pendants set with garnets, and having a gold cross in the centre, was found at Desborough, and is now in the British Museum. There was a Saxon mint at Stamford Baron, and many scarce coins have been found in the county; while it is a curious and notable fact that a great many coins of the Stamford mint have been found in Scandinavia. In 1903, in the course of building operations, an important burial-ground was found at Kettering, on the Stamford Road, close to the town, and many urns and skeletons were unearthed showing that it was a mixed burial-place of the Anglo-Saxon pagan period, where both cremation and earth burial occur together.

At Duston, which up to 1903 had only produced Roman antiquities, Anglo-Saxon burials have recently come to light, and have given some interesting brooches, necklets, and weapons. Mr J. T. George, who has made a thoroughly exhaustive survey of the county with regard to this period, places the number of spots where Anglo-Saxon remains have been found at thirty-six.

At Addington, in 1883, was found one of the earliest Teutonic relics which have ever come to light in England. It is now in the British Museum, and is a remarkable jug-shaped urn in which cremated remains had been deposited. Characteristic examples of the later Anglo-Saxon or Danish sculptured stones and crosses (which have been carefully noted and described by Mr Christopher Markham) are numerous;

and many interesting earthworks of the kind known as burhs or motes occur, notably at Earls Barton, East Farndon, Lilbourne, Rockingham, Sibbertoft, and Towcester.

In remains of mediæval times, the county is fairly rich in examples of domestic architecture, while its mansions of the Renaissance period are especially noteworthy. Fawsley, Drayton, Rockingham, and parts of Canons Ashby are typical specimens of earlier residences, while Kirby, Burghley, Apethorpe, Rushton (with its rare screen), and the grand group of Tresham buildings are among the glories of the Renaissance. The old abbeys have all disappeared—that at Pipwell being the only Cistercian Abbey in the county—and the only two remaining castles are Rockingham and Barnwell. A grass mound is all that remains of the historic Fotheringhay, and the North-Western Station covers the site of Northampton Castle.

In its churches Northamptonshire is quite superior to the majority of English counties, and its Saxon churches are the most remarkable of any in the land. The student of ecclesiastical architecture will find among the clustering towers and spires all along the valley of the Nene, types to illustrate every English style, from the fine Saxon tower of Earls Barton to the late Tudor church of Whiston, which was built in 1534, while between these two extremes the Norman period is admirably illustrated by Peterborough Cathedral and the church of St Peter at Northampton.

Of the interesting Saxon work the pre-eminent examples are at Barnack, Wittering, Brigstock, Brixworth, and Earls Barton, while there are considerable and noteworthy portions at Geddington, Green's Norton, Moulton, Nassington, Pattishall, Peterborough Cathedral, Stowe, and Wansford. The type of Saxon church found in the county is, with the two exceptions of Peterborough and Brixworth, that usual in Scotland, the plan being a square-ended church, and, in the majority of instances, without a tower. Owing, however, to the abundance of building-stone in Northamptonshire, the number of Saxon west towers is notable. These are at Brixworth, Earls Barton, Brigstock, and Stowe. Peterborough and Brixworth, whose dates are contemporary with the monastic churches built by Benedict Biscop at Jarrow and Monkwearmouth, are instances of the Italian or Basilican plan, which is more elaborate than that found to be usually followed by Saxon churches in England. There is a sun-dial of the period in the porch of St Sepulchre's, Northampton, and both this church and that of St Peter in the same town show undoubted traces of earlier buildings having been worked into the Norman parts. Little Billing has an interesting Saxon font.

Characteristic examples of Norman work are to be found in the churches at Earls Barton, Northborough, and Twywell, while considerable portions remain at Barnack, Blatherwyke, Burton Latimer, Castle Ashby, Castor, Croughton,

Duddington, East Haddon, Geddington, Grafton, Underwood, Great Billing, Gretton Hinton, King's Sutton, Maxey, Nassington, Newbottle, Peakirk, Polebrook, Rothwell, Sutton, Tansor, Upton, Wakerley, Wansford, Wappenham, Warrington, Weston-Favell, and Wittering.

Norman fonts, which invariably indicate other work of the period, are at Aston-le-Walls, Braybrooke (mentioned as Saxon by more than one authority), Brackley, Chalcombe, Cranford, St Andrew, Courteenhall, Crick, Dodford, Duston, East Haddon, Eydon, Finedon, Gayton, Glinton, Green's Norton, King's Sutton, Harpole, Hinton, Paulerspury, Little Billing, Thornby, Naseby, Raunds, Twywell, Wansford, West Haddon, Wittering, and Woodford. Elaborate doorways occur at Earls Barton and Castle Ashby (a later specimen). Wakerley has a Norman chancel arch which is the best, perhaps, for its size in England.

In Transition Norman (a section to which specimens have not always been by any means correctly assigned) notable examples are to be found in the tower of the church at Spratton, which is of the time of King John (the spire being later), Great Addinton, Hargrave, and Northborough.

In Peterborough Cathedral we have a particularly beautiful example of the whole history, practically, of the development of Norman architecture. The following table shows the date of the building and of characteristic portions:—

1117-1155. Choir and E. aisles of Transept.
1155-1177. Transept and a portion of the Nave.
1177-1193. Nave.
1193-1200. (Trans.) W. Transept.

In Early English notable examples, in that they represent the style throughout, with the whole of the work not later than about 1260, are to be found in the churches at Strixton, Etton, and Warmington. Excellent specimens of towers are the octagon one at Stanwick (of the time of Henry III.), and those at Barnwell, Brackley, Burton Latimer, Cotterstock, Duddington (and the later spire), Moreton Pinkney, Polebrooke. In addition to the examples to be found in many of these churches, Early English fonts are to be found at Bainton, Hardwick, Irchester, Kingscliffe, Laxton, Lowick, Raunds, Rothwell, Rushton, and Wadenhoe. The northern part of the county shows an exceptional amount of beautiful work from the beginning of the 13th cent. up to within about thirty years of its close, while there is no part of England which has so many fine examples of the distinctive foliaged capitals of this period as the Nene valley. Notable examples occur at Polebrooke, Stanwick, Warmington, and Higham Ferrers. The county is specially rich in every variety of Early English windows, of which notable instances are the five-light lancet window at Oundle, and those at Cogenhoe, which have an uncommon inner arcading.

The term Decorated, as instanced by the churches which come under this period, is rather misleading, as the majority of the churches in the county are remarkable for their plainness. A better definition is that given by Sharpe, who divides the period into Geometrical (1245-1315) and Curvilinear (1315-1360). An excellent example of the transition from Early English to this period is shown in the S. porch of Woodford, and interesting specimens of early sedilia occur at Helpston and Irchester (the latter being unusual, as showing a single sedile with a double piscina on the same level). Character and complete examples of the style are at Cottesbrooke, Harleston (except clerestory), Finedon (except tower and spires), Kislingbury, Middleton Cheney (except tower), Stanford, Yardley-Hastings (except tower), and Easton Maudit. The characteristic ball flower is seen at Raunds (in the chancel arch), Cransley (capitals of the N. arcade), and in the W. door at Byfield. Stanford church possesses some excellent painted glass dating from the last year of Edward II. It has been described by C. Winston.

A great feature is the beauty and perfect condition of the spires of the Northamptonshire churches. Two-thirds of them are of the broach variety, the best examples being in the N. of the county, and in those of Barnack, Duddington, and Kingscliffe (dating from the time of John or early Henry III.) we have the oldest specimens in England.

With Rutland, Northamptonshire is noteworthy in giving instances of the continuation of the use of the Norman round arch long after it had been generally discarded. It occurs frequently in the 13th cent. work and even as late as the 14th. The arcades of Bainton, Castor, Helpston, Warrington, and Yarwell, and the doorways at Nassington and Wood Newton offer examples; while instances of a semi-circular arch with the two lancet lights in 13th cent. towers are often to be found.

Perpendicular—the period covered by the time of Edward III. to Henry VII., which is more correctly, as Sharpe defines it, called Rectilinear—is well exemplified in the county, especially in respect of the marked change made from Decorated by the use of the square head over the arches. Good examples of W. doorways of this kind are at Chipping Warden, Middleton Cheney, Towcester, and Warkton; while the most characteristic churches showing the work of this period throughout, are Ashby St Legers, Charwelton, Easton Neston, Fotheringhay, Kettering, Stamford St Martin, and Whiston.

VI. Population and Industries

Northamptonshire has shared in the great increase in population of the industrial counties during the last century, although perhaps not to the same extent as some others. It is during the last forty years that its progress has been

most remarkable, it having added roughly 110,000 to its inhabitants since 1861, which stood in 1901 at 338,088, as compared with 131,757 in 1801. Its chief town, Northampton, at the same date only numbered 7020 souls, whereas to-day it must stand at close on 90,000. Peterborough does not share the lethargy of most cathedral towns, having increased from 6959 in 1861 to 32,203 at the present day. Other towns, by the aid of a flourishing shoe trade, show even more rapid progress. Kettering, which in 1861 had only 7184, now has 30,000, more than quadrupling itself in forty years. A still more marvellous increase is that of Rushden, which, a village of 1878 in 1861, is now an increasing town of 12,459, an increase of 700 per cent. Other manufacturing towns, such as Wellingborough, with 18,412, Daventry, with 3780, and Raunds, with 3811, compare favourably with the purely agricultural towns like Oundle, Towcester, and Brackley, where the population is practically stationary.

Although Northamptonshire may claim to rank as an industrial county, yet it still owes much of its prosperity to agriculture. It is one of the best grazing districts in England, three-fifths of its acreage being under permanent grass, which, in the southern portion of the county, provide the "rolling pastures" over which the followers of the Pytchley delight.

Its iron ore seems to have been largely worked in ancient times, certainly during the Roman period, and Rockingham Castle was erected by

William the Conqueror to protect the then existing iron-works. The destruction of the forests caused the industry to decay, but of late years it has revived and is now fairly flourishing. Brown iron-stone to the extent of 1,485,084 tons was raised in 1901, and 206,101 tons of pig-iron manufactured from eleven blast-furnaces. 144,704 tons of limestone were raised in the same year.

The one great industry of Northamptonshire is the manufacture of boots and shoes, which in the last thirty years has gone ahead with great strides. It is carried on principally in the angle formed roughly by Northampton, Kettering, and Wellingborough; Daventry and Long Buckby and the Rothwell district contributing in a minor degree. The county has long stood at the head of the boot and shoe trade, and its supremacy dates back to a very early period. In the "Liber custumarum" of the town of Northampton is an ordinance made in the third year of Henry IV. for the craft of shoemakers, settling the amount to be paid by every man "commencing a shop in the said craft," and the tenor of the enactment shows that the trade had already arrived at some importance. In 1402 the sum paid was 6s. 8d., which in 1550 had risen to 30s.

By the beginning of the 17th cent. we find many allusions to Northampton's shoe trade. The first local manufacturer of whom we have record was Thomas Pendleton. He was Mayor during the Irish Rebellion, and obtained

a contract for 4000 pairs of shoes and 600 pairs of army boots, which, although promptly delivered, never seem to have been paid for. The Puritan town sent a present of 1500 pairs of shoes to the ragged army of the Parliament when they marched through Northampton in 1648. From that time to the middle of the last century the trade pursued the even tenor of its way. The advent of machinery, especially the invention of the sewing machine, gave it a great impetus, which has increased in each succeeding year. The town of Northampton takes precedence in manufacture, both as regards quantity and quality. Kettering, Wellingborough, Rushden, and Earls Barton produce boots of a lower grade, while Raunds, Irthlinborough, and Walgrave are the centres of the army boot trade.

Lace making was formerly a flourishing industry, but fell on evil times, and has nearly been ruined, though in character it was analogous to the lace industry of the neighbouring county Bucks. Foreign competition and the fickle changes of fashion have resulted in its almost gradual extinction, but the last few years have seen a slight revival, thanks to the Lace Association, started by some philanthropic ladies. A century ago, in the villages devoted to its manufacture, it employed nearly every woman and girl. Fifty years ago there was at Spratton a celebrated school of lace-making, of which Miss Dryden gives an interesting account in her article on "Pillow Lace in the

Midlands," in the *Pall Mall Magazine* of March 1896.

VII. Men of Letters and Historical Characters

Men of Letters

Baker, George, author of "History of Northamptonshire," was born in 1781 at Northampton, where he died in 1851. His work, as far as it goes, is one of the most complete and systematic of all our county histories. Unfortunately, after the issue of the fifth part, a great number of his subscribers failed him, and with health and means exhausted he was compelled to bring the publication to a close. His sister, Anne Elizabeth, 1786-1861, contributed to her brother's work the notes on geology and botany, and she was a devoted helper in all his labours, making drawings and even engraving some of the plates. It was to the opportunities given her in her journeys through the county in search of material that we are indebted for her "Glossary of Northamptonshire Words and Phrases," to which are added the customs of the country, published in 1854, one of the best of the local lexicons.

Bowles, Wm. Lisle, divine and poet, was born at King's Sutton in 1762. In 1792 he was appointed rector of Cricklade, and in 1804 of Bremhill, a living which he held until his

death, which occurred in 1850. His first attempts at verse were a book of sonnets, published at Bath in 1789, which had a great success. He followed these up by many others, none of which attracted more than a passing notice. In 1806 Bowles published his memorable edition of Pope, with severe strictures on his poetry, which led to a stinging attack by Byron in prose and verse; Campbell also took part against him, but Bowles's main contention was not shaken by either of his antagonists. Bowles was also the author of many antiquarian and topographical works.

Bridges, John, the historian of Northamptonshire, was born at Barton Seagrave in 1666. He was Solicitor to the Customs in 1695, and Cashier of Excise in 1715. In 1719 he began the collection of material for his History. He personally made a circuit of the county, and employed several persons to make drawings, collect information, transcribe monuments and records, in which task he expended a large sum of money. He was about to make another more complete survey of the county when he died. His manuscripts, which fill thirty folio volumes (besides nine quarto volumes of descriptions), are in the Bodleian Library at Oxford. The work was eventually published in 2 vols. in 1791, the editing being done very inadequately by the Rev. Peter Whalley. A magnificent copy of the work, enlarged to five volumes by the addition of numerous sketches and engravings, was formed by Mr Thomas

Dash of Kettering, and bequeathed by his son in 1883 to the British Museum.

Britton, Thomas, the celebrated musical "small-coal man," was born either at Higham Ferrers or one of the neighbouring villages, probably in 1654. Early in life he went to London, and in 1678 established a musical club, at which on each Thursday for nearly forty years were held some remarkable concerts of vocal and instrumental music. The greatest performers of the day, both professional and amateur, might there be heard. Handel played the organ, while leaders of fashion like the Duchess of Queensberry were among the audience. At first there was free admission, but after a time a yearly subscription of 10s. was charged, and coffee supplied at 1d. a dish. Britton was not only a musician but a chemist and book lover, and Harley, Pembroke, Winchelsea, and other great nobles did not disdain, in the company of the "small-coal man," to form bookhunting expeditions in the city. His death was a singular one. At one of his entertainments a ventriloquist named Honeyman was secretly introduced. Britton was very superstitious, and Honeyman in an assumed voice announced that unless Britton fell upon his knees and repeated the Lord's Prayer he would die within a few hours. The fright was too much for him, and he actually did die a few days later (1714).

Carey, William, the celebrated orientalist and missionary, was born in 1761 at Paulerspury.

In his early years he became a Baptist minister, and took part in the formation of the Missionary Society of that body, and in 1794 was sent to Bengal as one of its first missionaries. He had always been an ardent linguist, and in India he devoted much time to mastering the native dialects. In 1801 he was appointed professor of Sanskrit, Bengali, and Mahratta in the college of Fort William, and his missions, in spite of half-heartedness of the government, increased yearly in importance. He published grammars in most of the native languages. His death occurred in 1834.

Clare, John, the Northamptonshire peasant poet, was born at Helpston in 1793. He was a true son of the soil, his father being but a poor farm labourer often in the receipt of parish relief. Weakly from his infancy, Clare contrived, in spite of the sordid life to which he was condemned, to obtain some sort of education. There is not a more interesting episode in literature than the story of how he obtained his first book—a copy of "Thomson's Seasons." He was an ardent lover of nature, and all his spare time was spent in turning his thoughts and aspirations into verse. He made many attempts to better his position. For nearly a year he was an under-gardener at Burleigh, and had a short experience of a military life, but finally had to return to field work. He still kept on verse-making, and his next few years are a record of his weary round of labour and his efforts to find a publisher courageous enough to print his efforts.

When all hope seemed to have failed, some generous patrons came forward, by whose aid his first work, "Poems descriptive of Rural Life and Scenery" (January 1821), appeared. Their success was immense. Rossini set them to music, Madame Vestris recited them, and the reviewers were loud in their praise. His second book, "The Village Minstrel," published in the same year, though fully equal in merit, had but very moderate success, and the "Shepherd's Calendar" (1827) had no better fate. Clare tried farming, but the seasons were against him, and he sank each year into deeper dejection. His last work was the "Rural Muse" (1835), which brought him £40. Clare's health now completely broke down, and his mind finally gave way. The last twenty-three years of his life were spent in the County Lunatic Asylum at Northampton, where he quietly passed away in 1864. The greater part of his library of some 500 volumes is in the Northampton Free Library.

Doddridge, Philip, although not born in the county, was closely identified with Northampton for the greater part of his life. Born in London in 1702, he was for some years pastor of various Independent churches, and in 1729 accepted a call from the congregation at Castle Hill, Northampton, and the remaining twenty-two years of his life were passed there. As a preacher, teacher, and an author he is equally admirable, and it would be hard to exaggerate the work he did for his generation. He was a

great letter-writer, and was in correspondence with all the principal Nonconformists of his day. His literary work covered an extensive ground. His poetic talent is shown in his hymns, and his epigram, "Live while you live," is pronounced by Dr Johnson the finest in the language. One of the most striking of his productions is "The Life of Colonel Gardner," who was killed at Prestonpans, and who had been one of Doddridge's pupils in early life. On July 14th, 1751, he preached his last sermon at Northampton; but his health failing, he made a voyage to Lisbon, where he died on the 26th October of the same year, and was buried in the English cemetery.

Dryden, John, was born 9th August, 1631, in his grandfather's parsonage at Aldwinkle, All Saint's. His father was Erasmus, the third son of Sir Erasmus Dryden of Canons Ashby. The Drydens were an old Cumberland family who moved into the Midlands about the middle of the 16th cent. Dryden was at Westminster School, and remembered Dr Busby's whippings to the day of his death. He seems to have found employment in London during the Commonwealth. On Cromwell's death, Dryden wrote the "Heroic Stanzas," and hailed the restoration in his "Astræa Redux." Playwriting proved more profitable than poetry, and during Charles II.'s reign his pen furnished a generous supply of comedies and tragedies for the King's Theatre, chief among which is "All for Love." But it is his poems on which his

renown will rest. The wonderful "Satire of Absalom and Achitophel," 1681-82, had immense success, and his reputation was henceforth assured. He was not so successful in his attempts to advocate Anglican teaching in the "Religio Laici," or the Roman position in the "Hind and Panther." His industry continued unabated to the end of his life. In his later years appeared his translations of Virgil, 1697, and in 1700, the year of his death, those admirable fables which show his energy of thought and language at their best During all his stress of literary work, Dryden found time for constant visits to his relations in Northamptonshire, and many are the anecdotes of his enjoyment of country life. He rests in Poet's Corner by the side of Chaucer.

Fuller, Thomas, the author of "The Worthies of England," "The Holy Warre," and many other well-known works, was the son of the rector of Aldwinkle St Peter's, and was born in 1608. His first book, "David's Hainous Sinne," was published in 1631, and for thirty years he was a most prolific writer. His great claim to admiration is that in an age of violent extremes, Fuller, without disavowing his genuine convictions, remained a moderate man. He was one of the few early authors to make a living by his pen, and it was he who first adopted a sort of publishing by subscription, dedicating each section of his books to a great number of patrons. He passed seventeen years of his life at Cambridge. Later, in 1648, he was perpetual

curate of Waltham, where he wrote several of his works, and he preached and lectured much in London, although his Royalist opinions caused him for some time to do so under sufferance. The Restoration brought him better times, but he died of fever in 1661.

Harrington, James, the author of "Oceana," was born at Upton in 1611. He took no active part in the Civil War, but accompanied King Charles to Holmby House, where he was made groom of the bedchamber. Here he did some literary work in conjunction with the king, with whom he often discussed political and other subjects. In 1656 he produced "Oceana," which caused much controversy, and was hotly attacked by Baxter in his Holy Commonwealth. A Republican at heart, Harrington was thrown into the Tower in 1661 on a charge of conspiring to change the form of Government, but was finally released, and died in London in 1677, his reason during his latter years having been to some degree affected.

Hervey, James, the author of "Meditations among the Tombs," was born at Hardingstone in 1714, but his memory is more closely connected with Weston Favell, where for fifteen years he ministered, and where his remains are interred. He belonged to the Evangelical school of clerics, and was a singularly gentle and unselfish spirit. His true appreciation of the beauties of nature was unfortunately often expressed in inflated language. His books were very popular, the "Meditations" reaching a twenty-

fifth edition, thirty years after his death. All the profits of his works were devoted to pious and charitable uses. His devotion to his parish and literary work brought on the decline of which he died in 1758.

Law, William (1686-1761), the author of the "Serious Call," was born at Kingscliffe, where he lived and died. He took his degree at Cambridge, from which he was suspended in 1713 for his Jacobite sympathies, which he seems to have retained through life. For some years he was tutor in the family of the father of Edmund Gibbon, the historian, and while there he wrote his great work, the "Serious Call" (1728), perhaps the most religious work of the century, and which ran through numberless editions. His other works were very numerous, all distinguished by their strong logical power and literary merit, while tinged with that mysticism which he had culled from à Kempis and others. The last twenty years of his life were spent in his native village, where he lived in a peculiar species of religious community, acting as spiritual director to two wealthy ladies who were devoted to his work. There they carried out literally the precepts of the "Serious Call," founded schools, established almshouses, and indulged in a somewhat indiscriminate almsgiving which attracted all the beggars of the neighbourhood, and excited the indignation of the rector of the parish. One of Law's last tasks was to defend his principles against the attacks of John Wesley and his disciples.

Paley, William, born at Peterborough in 1743, was descended from a Yorkshire family of dalesmen. He gave early evidence of his future celebrity. He was senior wrangler at Cambridge, and lecturer of his college. In 1774 Dr Edmund Law, Bishop of Carlisle, an old college friend, appointed him prebendary, and in 1782 archdeacon of his diocese. Paley published the "Evidences of Christianity" in 1794, and his "Natural Theology" in 1802. The latter has been translated into many languages. He died in 1805, and was buried in Carlisle Cathedral.

Randolph, Thomas, one of the most promising poets and dramatists of the 17th cent., was born at Newnham in a quaint roadside cottage which is still standing, and composed a poem on the "Incarnation" before he was ten years old. He plunged early into the dissipation of London town. With Ben Jonson he was a prime favourite, and there is an amusing story of his first introduction to him at the Devil Tavern Club Randolph, penniless and wayworn, hovered about the open doors. Ben caught sight of him and shouted an invitation to enter, which Randolph gladly obeyed. The club then instantly began rhyming on the meanness of the intruder's dress, and threatened him with a fine of a quart of sack unless he instantly made a verse. There were four of his tormentors, and Randolph replied as quick as lightning:—

> I. John Bopeep, and you four sheep,
> With each one his good fleece:

If that you are willing to give me your shilling,
'Tis fifteen pence apiece.

"By the Lord," roared Jonson, "I believe this is my son Randolph," and the young poet spent a glorious evening, and was sealed of the tribe of "Ben." Randolph's life was a short one. He died shortly before reaching his thirtieth birthday while staying with his friend, William Stafford of Blatherwyck. His best comedy is the "Jealous Lovers" (1632), and the "Nurse's Looking-Glass" was published after his death in 1638. He was also the author of some translations and the witty but broad Latin comedy, "Cornelianum Dolum."

Rice, James, the literary coadjutor of Sir Walter Besant, was born at Northampton in 1843. He graduated at Queen's College, and for four years edited *Once a Week*. In 1872, in conjunction with Besant, he recommenced the series of novels which made their names famous, the first of which, "Ready Money Mortiboy," drew all its characters and inspiration from Northampton. Rice died prematurely in 1882.

Welsted, Leonard, poet, the son of a rector of Abington, was born in 1688, and after taking his fellowship at Cambridge entered the Civil Service, and finally became one of the commissioners for managing the State lottery. He was an indefatigable poetaster, but he would now be but little remembered save for his attack upon Pope, whom he grossly libelled in "One Epistle," 1730. In the "Dunciad" Welsted is held up to scorn. He died in 1747.

Historical Characters

Burleigh, William Cecil, Lord Burleigh, the most prominent statesman of the reign of Elizabeth, and to whom the England of that day owed so much of its glory, was born in 1520 at Burleigh House by Stamford, and his monument is in St Martin's Church in the Northamptonshire part of the town. His early life was passed in the study of the law, in which he achieved some success, and he was made by the Protector, Somerset, his Master of Requests. In the Scottish war he accompanied his patron, and narrowly escaped death at the Battle of Pinkie (1547). He was appointed one of the Secretaries of State in 1550, and for the next half century he occupied a leading position in the counsels of the nation. During Mary's reign he was to some extent under a cloud, although he was engaged in a diplomatic mission to bring Cardinal Pole as Pope's legate to England. Elizabeth soon recognised his value. She at once appointed him Chief Secretary of State, and from that time his advance was rapid and unchecked, and he soon became the most powerful man in the kingdom. In 1571 he was created Baron of Burleigh, but spoke of himself as "the poorest lord in England." Elizabeth, with her usual hypocrisy, poured out the vials of her wrath upon him for having contravened her wishes in the execution of Mary Stuart, but this soon passed away, and to his death he remained her faithful and vigilant servant. He died in 1598.

Chichele, Henry (1362-1443), Archbishop of Canterbury, was the son of a yeoman of Higham Ferrers. An old and probable legend asserts that William of Wykeham found Chichele as a boy tending his father's sheep, and, struck by his intelligence, undertook the care of his education. He took his degree of B.C.L. at Oxford in 1389-90, and his advance was then a rapid one. Henry IV. employed him often on embassies, and in 1408 he was appointed Bishop of St Davids. In that capacity he was one of the English representatives at the Council of Pisa (1409). Henry V. chose him as one of his ambassadors to France, and in 1414 nominated him to the See of Canterbury, which he held to his death, twenty-nine years later. He was an ardent imperialist, strongly favouring the war policy of Henry V., and watched over the home defence during his master's absence. Although severe in his treatment of the Lollards, he pursued a more moderate policy than that of his predecessors. Chichele advocated a firm national policy against the encroachments of the Holy See, and in consequence received many rebuffs from Rome for his patriotic attitude. An able ecclesiastical lawyer, he framed a constitution for the defence of the Church against the secular power. It was in 1424 that on a visit to Higham Ferrers he dedicated a college there, and also founded and endowed a hospital for twelve poor men. He is buried in his Cathedral Church of Canterbury.

Compton, Spencer, of Castle Ashby, the second

Earl of Northampton (1601-43), was an ardent Royalist. On the breach between the King and Parliament he undertook the task of raising levies for Charles's cause in Warwickshire. He failed to surprise Warwick Castle, and after being defeated by Hampden at Southam, took part with his troop of gentlemen in Prince Rupert's victory at Worcester, and subsequently in the less successful fight at Edgehill. In 1643 he marched from Banbury to relieve Lichfield, and, failing in this attempt, he met the Parliamentarians at Hopton Heath. He successfully routed the enemy's cavalry and captured their guns, but being unhorsed in the pursuit, he was killed after a heroic defence.

Empson, Sir Richard, was of humble origin, his father being a Towcester shoemaker. The son soon made his mark, for he represented the county in the Parliament of 1491. Recorder of Coventry, he was knighted in 1503-4, and made Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. From the beginning of the reign of Henry VII. he was associated with Edmund Dudley in the exaction of taxes and penalties due from offenders to the Crown, and his zeal and vigour raised up a host of enemies. Henry VII. was his firm supporter, and made him an executor under his will, but at his master's death the popular clamour against Empson was irresistible, and he was speedily arraigned. His trial took place at Northampton, and his execution followed in the next year.

Hatton, Sir Christopher, was born at Holdenby in 1540. He studied for the bar, but Fuller

says that he took rather "a bait than a meal" of legal study. He early danced himself into the favour of Elizabeth in one of the masques that were then the fashion, and his prowess in the tourney further helped his advancement. His relations with the queen were very intimate; she never tired of showering gifts upon him, and when he fell seriously ill she visited him daily. While recovering at Spa the correspondence that passed between them was of the most extravagant. He signed himself her "most happy bondman," and the queen called him her "mutton" and "her bell-wether." Mary Stuart, in a letter written in 1584, did not scruple to accuse Hatton of being her paramour. He was the moving spirit in the execution of Mary, and the blood money, in the shape of estates and honours that he received, showed the royal appreciation of his work. In 1587 he became Lord Chancellor, but none of his decrees have been preserved, and but one of his judgments, when he condemned a neighbour, Sir Richard Knightley, to a fine of £2000 for printing Brownist books. Hatton was a patron of men of letters, and was not altogether unknown as an author. He represented first Higham Ferrers, and afterwards Northamptonshire in several Parliaments. He died in 1591.

Nicolls, Sir Augustine, Judge, was born at Ecton in 1559. Bred to the study of the common law, he was sworn in sergeant-at-law in the first year of James I., and was made recorder of Leicester, and attached as sergeant

to the household of Henry, Prince of Wales. He was knighted, and made a justice of common pleas in 1612, and died when on circuit at Kendal of the "new ague" in 1616. He had a high character both as a man and a Judge, and old Thomas Fuller says of him that he was "the judge that would give no money," a remarkable compliment in so venal an age. His tomb is in Faxton Church, a quaint monument in black and white marble.

Brudenell, James Thomas, seventh Earl of Cardigan, the hero of the Balaclava charge, was born in 1797. As a mere youth he was M.P. for Marlborough in 1818, but entered the army six years later, and by lavish expenditure he became lieutenant-colonel of the 15th hussars in 1832. He found time from his military duties to fight a most expensive election for North Northants, for which he was returned. He was of a difficult temper, and had constant troubles with his officers. In 1840 he was one of the principals in a duel in which he shot a Captain Tuckett, and was tried by his peers, who almost unanimously acquitted him. In 1854 he was sent out to the Crimea in command of a cavalry brigade, and commanded the light cavalry at the celebrated charge of Balaclava.

Cavendish, Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, the reigning queen of society for so many years in the latter part of the 18th cent., was born in 1757. She was the eldest daughter of the first Earl Spencer, and was married at seventeen to the Duke of Devonshire, the "first match in

England." Great as were her personal charms, they were to many the least of her attractions. She delighted in the society of the literati, and numbered among her special friends, Fox, Sheridan, and Selwyn. Her efforts to secure the return of the first named at the famous Westminster Election were marked by many amusing episodes. She wrote some more than passable verses, which elicited from Coleridge an ode with the refrain :—

> "O lady, nursed in pomp and pleasure,
> Whence learned you that heroic measure?"

Both Sir Joshua Reynolds and Gainsborough painted portraits of her, and one of them by the latter has had a very curious history. Sold at the sale of the Wynn Ellis collection at Messrs Christie's for £10,605, it was exhibited by the purchasers, Messrs Agnew & Sons, in their Bond Street rooms, where it was cut out of the frame and stolen. Nothing was heard of it for more than twenty years, when it was recovered. The Duchess died in 1806, and was buried in the family vault at Derby.

Mordaunt, Charles, the celebrated Earl of Peterborough, was born in 1658. He was, says Macaulay, "if not the greatest yet assuredly the most extraordinary character of the age, Charles of Sweden not excepted. His fertility and activity of mind were beyond belief." As admiral, general, and diplomatist he was equally distinguished. Early in life he took a leading part against James II., and for a time in favour

with William III., he fell into disgrace and was sent to the Tower. Restored to favour by Queen Anne, he was sent to command the expedition which was to put Charles III. on the Spanish throne. His exploits in this war savoured of romance, but in spite of his successes, his restlessness and eccentricity deprived him of the merit he really deserved, and he was at last recalled. He was on several occasions lord-lieutenant of Northamptonshire, dying in 1735.

Parr, Catherine, the sixth queen of Henry VIII., was, according to local tradition, born at Green's Norton. Before she became the wife of Henry, she had been twice married, and was on the point of espousing Sir Thomas Seymour when the king paid his addresses to her. Very shortly after the king's death Catherine married her old love, Sir Thomas Seymour, but a year afterwards she died at the early age of 36 (1548).

Perceval Spencer, second son of the second Earl of Egmont, whose sad fate at the hand of an assassin has given him a prominence he would not otherwise have obtained, was born in 1762. He was early in life a barrister on the Midland Circuit. In 1790 he became deputy recorder of Northampton, and seven years later one of the M.P.'s for the town, which he represented almost uninterruptedly to his death. He was made attorney-general in 1802, and during the Addington administration was the prop of the ministry. In 1807, after the death

of Pitt and Fox, he became Chancellor of the Exchequer, and in 1809 prime minister. Three years later his career was cut short by John Bellingham, a mad merchant, who shot him in the lobby of the House of Commons, May 11th, 1812. A statue of him by Chantrey was formerly in All Saints' Church, and is now very inappropriately housed in the Municipal Council Chamber of Northampton.

Richard III., King of England, the Crookback of Shakespeare, the eleventh child of Richard, Duke of York, was born at Fotheringhay Castle, 2nd October, 1452. When eight years of age he was sent, after the Lancastrian success at St Albans, to Utrecht for safety, but was soon recalled. His military career began at an early age. At seventeen he was appointed constable of England for life, and in 1470 warden of the west marches against Scotland. His fortunes rose and fell with those of his brother Edward. At Barnet and Tewkesbury he commanded the vanguard with consummate skill and valour, a rare feat for a youth of nineteen. His career was brought to a close at Bosworth Field, where he fell.

Spencer, George John, second Earl Spencer (Honest John), was born in 1758. He was in 1780 elected as M.P. for Northampton, but his career as a commoner was a short one, for in 1783 he was removed by the death of his father to the House of Lords. He was a warm supporter of the policy of Pitt, and in 1794 was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty. The six

years that he held this office were among the most glorious in our annals. St Vincent and Camperdown were fought under his ægis, and it was he who singled out Nelson for independent command, and sent him to the Mediterranean to win the Battle of the Nile. He was Home Secretary during Fox's administration, and then retired to a great extent from public life. He devoted himself to local affairs, was colonel of the Northamptonshire Yeomanry, was for thirty years Chairman of Quarter Sessions, and it was owing to his energy that the Northampton Infirmary was built and endowed. His literary and scientific pursuits took up much of his time. He was the first president of the Roxburghe Club, and made the Althorp Library, founded by his ancestor, the third Earl of Sunderland, the finest private library in England. Spencer died at Althorp, 10th November 1834.

The *Tresham Family*, of Rushton, is indissolubly linked with the history of Northamptonshire in the 16th and 17th cents. The first of the name who rose to prominence was Sir Thomas Tresham, who died in 1471. He was a devoted Lancastrian, and, representing his county in Parliament, was elected Speaker. Still loyal to the red rose, he was taken prisoner at the fatal fight of Tewkesbury, and beheaded after the battle. A second Sir Thomas, who died in 1559, was Sheriff and M.P. for Northamptonshire. An ardent Catholic, as were all the family, he was an adherent of Mary, and proclaimed her at Northampton. He sat in the

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House of Lords as Prior of St John's. His grandson, another Thomas, was the "great builder." Passing much of his time in prison as a "Popish Recusant," he occupied his intervals of freedom in raising those fine specimens of Renaissance architecture—the market-house at Rothwell, the new building at Lyveden, and that quaint conception, the "triangular lodge" at Rushton. He died in 1605, fortunate to escape the knowledge of his son's treason to the State and betrayal of his co-conspirators in the Gunpowder Plot. Francis Tresham (1567-1605). He was a "wylde and unstayde man," and his life seems to have been spent in treason and conspiracy. There is little doubt that it was he who wrote the famous letter to Lord Monteagle, disclosing the Gunpowder Plot. He was arrested and sent to the Tower, having first had time to conceal his papers at Rushton, where they were not discovered until 1828. A fatal distemper saved him from execution, but he was yet treated as a traitor, his corpse decapitated, and his head set up over the gate at Northampton. The baronetcy became extinct in 1650.

The *Woodvilles* or *Wydvilles*, of Grafton, have furnished several warriors and one fair queen to our English annals. They were a family that had been settled at Grafton since the reign of Henry II., but it was only in the 15th cent. that they rose to eminence. Richard, who died in 1469, the father of the future queen, was the son of another Richard, who held high

command in the French wars under Henry V. and Bedford, and was Lieutenant of Calais. Richard, the younger, was an accomplished knight, and did good service in France in the latter years of English domination. He was created Earl Rivers in 1448, fought at Towton (1461) for Henry VI., but soon afterwards transferred his allegiance to the Yorkists. Three years afterwards his daughter's marriage with King Edward re-established his fortunes for the time, but Warwick, jealous of the Woodville influence, took up arms and defeated the king at Edgcot, and Lord Rivers and his son, John Woodville, were beheaded at Kenilworth (1469).

Anthony Woodville (*Baron Scales*) was born in 1442. At first Lancastrian, he transferred his allegiance to Edward, and after his sister's marriage his advancement was rapid. As the friend and patron of Caxton, he found time to translate several works from the French, the first book printed in England, "The Dictes and Sayings of the Philosophers" (1477), being his work. With the death of Edward his star paled, and within two months he was among the first and noblest of Richard's victims, being executed at Pontefract, 25th June 1483. *His sister*, QUEEN ELIZABETH, *was born in* 1437. Her wooing by King Edward in the glades of Grafton is one of the most romantic episodes in history, and her life as a whole perhaps one of the saddest in Royal annals. Her first husband, Sir John Grey, was slain at St Albans fighting on the Lancastrian side, and her suit to King

Edward for the restoration of her lands, which resulted in her becoming England's Queen, is too well known to need recountal. Her fate, and the death of those nearest and dearest to her at the hands of Richard, are also old history. The accession of Henry VII., who married her daughter Elizabeth, brought her a restoration to her queenly rank (of which she had been deprived by Richard) and honours, but the penurious king soon found an excuse to banish her to the Abbey of Bermondsey, where she died in 1492. She completed the work which her rival, Margaret of Anjou, had commenced, and refounded and endowed Queen's College, Cambridge.

VIII. Puritans and Nonconformists

For the last three centuries Northamptonshire has been a stronghold of Puritanism and Nonconformity. Robert Browne, the rector for forty years of Achurch, was the earliest separatist from the Church of England. To All Saints, Northampton, is given the credit of originating the famous Puritan "Prophesyings," the rules of which were drawn up as early as 1571, and show the stern religious discipline our ancestors allowed themselves to be subjected to. When a few years later these had been suppressed, the extreme Puritans, with a Cartwright at their head, instituted what were called "classes," which practically abrogated episcopal

authority. Fuller found these classes "more firmly settled in Northamptonshire than anywhere else in England," and although in 1590 they were for the time stamped out, yet it resulted in introducing into many livings ministers of strong Puritan proclivities. The Mar Prelate Press had here its principal aiders and abettors, and was located for a time at Fawsley and Norton; Sir Richard Knightley, its harbourer, being fined £2000 and imprisoned.

It was at Fawsley that the celebrated *John Dod* (1549-1645), after being suspended for nonconformity, was rector for twenty years. He is the reputed author of the sermon on "Malt," and many more serious works. John Preston, 1619, is buried in Fawsley Church. Another notable Puritan divine was *Robert Wild* (1609-1679), rector of *Aynho* during the Civil War. To gain his benefice he had to preach a competitive sermon against another minister, and being asked the result, humorously replied: "We have divided it. I have the Ay! and he the No!"

During the early part of the 17th cent. the pulpits of Northamptonshire were full of men who were ever in arms against the spirit of the National Church. Such a man was Thomas Ball (d. 1659), vicar of All Saints, Northampton, for thirty years a stalwart Puritan, full of fight against the Laudian Reformation, which he managed successfully to set at defiance, backed up as he was by many of the neighbouring clergy, among whom Daniel Cawdrey,

rector of Billing, and Andrew Perne, rector of Wilby, both Puritan authors, were conspicuous.

The whirligig of time brought its revenge, and the restoration, with its searching act of uniformity (1662), saw the expulsion from their livings of most of the Puritan clergy. The next two decades were years of persecution, which naturally resulted in increasing the numbers both of ministers and people. The revolution, however, soon brought peace and permission to worship God in their own way, and the progress of Nonconformity was thenceforward rapid and unchecked. Northamptonshire shared largely in the movement, and its annals of the 18th cent. are full of the names of eminent Nonconformist leaders. The celebrated Philip Doddridge ministered for twenty-one years at Castle Hill Chapel, Northampton, founded in 1674. The Baptist body in College Street (founded 1697) were fortunate in a long line of energetic pastors. The Rylands, father and son, whose ministry extended from 1760 to 1793, combined the role of ministers and schoolmasters and shone equally in each. In the last century the Rev. John Turland Brown (d. 1899) was its pastor for over fifty years. Kettering at an early date founded its Independent "Church," Thomas Maidwell (d. 1692), an ejected minister, having opened a meeting-house here. The Rev. Andrew Fuller (d. 1815), a voluminous author and promoter of missionary enterprise, was Baptist minister

here; and John Gill (d. 1771) and John Brine (d. 1765) were both natives.

The neighbouring town of Rothwell was the first place in the county to draw up a "Church Covenant" so early as 1655 under John Beverley, and among its ministers was Mathias Maurice (d. 1739), the author of many religious works.

Nonconformity took early root in Daventry, and the original license exists granted by Charles II. in 1672 to a certain Allen Linzey to hold Presbyterian worship in his house. For many years the academy founded by Dr Ashworth, a pupil of Doddridge, flourished here and was in great repute. Dr Priestley was educated there.

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X. COMMUNICATIONS

ROADS, RAILWAYS, AND WATERWAYS, WITH AN ITINERARY FOR THE TOURIST

From its central position Northamptonshire is intersected by some of the main English roads. The one claiming the highest antiquity is that from London to Chester, the Holyhead road, which follows the line of the old Watling Street for nearly 70 miles without a break. It enters the county at Old Stratford and runs a straight undeviating course to Weedon "on the Street," passing through Towcester. A second, from London to Derby and the northern counties, enters near Horton, and crosses by Northampton and Market Harborough into Leicestershire. The London and Nottingham road through Bedford enters near Rushden, and passes through Ketter-

ing into Rutlandshire. The Great North Road passes through the neck of the county at the quaint village of Wansford and runs to Stamford. Other local main roads are those from Northampton to Peterborough, through Wellingborough and Oundle; to Stamford through Kettering; to Brackley and Oxford through Towcester; and to Bedford. All these roads are excellently made, and as a rule the district highways from village to village are generally good.

Northamptonshire is naturally a good cyclist's country: the gradients are fairly easy, and the scenery is always of a pleasant sylvan character.

For the wheelman coming from the south or for the motorist a pleasant three days' trip of about 140 miles, in which most of the "lions" of the county could be seen, would be to enter by the road from Bedford (21 m. to Northampton), visiting Castle Ashby (open Tuesday) *en route*. The Nene valley to Peterborough (42 m.) would afford a rich feast of churches close to the road on either side, comprising the Saxon church of Earls Barton and the later ones of Finedon and Higham Ferrers. Two miles from Thrapston, Drayton Manor and the fine monuments in Lowick Church should be seen. Just before reaching Oundle, Barnwell Castle stands to the right of the road, and those interested in ornithology can inspect the extensive collection of birds in Lord Lilford's Park. Fotheringhay can be reached by taking a byway and rejoining the main road at Elton; or a detour can be made

through Wansford, with its old "Haycock Inn," now a private house, and Castor, the seat of a Roman pottery, to Peterborough. From here a short ride of 12 miles leads to Stamford. Leaving the main road at Glinton, Helpstone, the birthplace of Clare, and the Saxon church of Barnack can be visited. Burleigh and the tombs of its lords are not far apart. The pleasant Stamford road takes us to Deene (12 m.), within a mile or two of which are the ruins of Kirby Hall, one of the grandest buildings of the Renaissance in England. Rejoining the road at Weldon (2 m.), the Eleanor Cross at Geddington is reached in another 4 miles, and passing within sight of Boughton, a slight detour may be made to Warkton, in the church of which are the celebrated monuments of the Montagu family by Roubilliac and others. At Kettering, a modern town with a fine old church, we pass on to Rothwell (3 m.), with a curious crypt and ossuary, and the Market House (restored by Gotch), built by Sir Thomas Tresham; and the triangular lodge at Rushton is within easy reach. From here, by fair country lanes, through Harrington and Kelmarsh, the road may be taken to Naseby (9 m.) and its famous battlefield. A switchback road with charming views leads through Thornby and West Haddon to Ashby St Ledgers (11 m.), the old manor of the Catesbys. Here we are on the high road to Daventry and then to Badby (6 m.), perhaps the prettiest village in the county; then through a picturesque park to Fawsley House and church (2 m.), both full of

memories of the Knightley family. From here a pretty rural ride takes us to Canons Ashby (4 m.), the seat of the Drydens, a quaint old mansion untouched by the restorer. We arrive at Towcester (8 m.), an old Roman station in the Watling Street, by Greens Norton, the birthplace of Catherine Parr, and so on to Northampton (9 m.). Just on the heights above the town, a grass-grown track leads to Danes Camp, a few hundred yards away, the enceinte of which is very perfect. Returning, instead of taking the direct road, a lane skirting the new cemetery brings us out on the London road a few yards above Queen Eleanor's Cross. Althorp House, the seat of the Spencers, with its magnificent gallery of paintings, and Brington, hard by, and the tombs of the Washingtons (6 m.), can easily be done from Northampton. Fairly good quarters will be found in all the towns, with more rustic accommodation in many of the villages.

Railways and Waterways.—Northamptonshire is well served by its railways. The London and North-Western main line passes through it from Roade to Rugby, and it has besides branches to Peterborough, Market Harborough, and Daventry. The Midland main line enters the county at Irchester, and traverses it by Kettering to Market Harborough, and it has many smaller feeders. The Great Central passes through the west of the county, through the long tunnel at Catesby to Brackley. The Great Eastern and Great Northern have terminuses at

Peterborough, which is a great railway centre; and the Great Western passes through the southern part of the county.

The Grand Junction Canal runs from Cosgrove to Braunston, with a branch to Northampton, and the Nene river is navigable for barges from Northampton to Peterborough.

DESCRIPTION OF PLACES IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY

Addington (Great and Little) is a small village on the Nen, 1½ miles W. of Ringstead. The church of All Saints has a very fine Dec. tower, with two lozenge windows and a panelled band of masonry just under the battlements. The font is E. English, and a piscina in the Vere chantry (in the N. aisle) is worth notice. The tomb of Sir Henry Vere, with an alabaster effigy, is 16th cent. work, and is in the aisle, and of special interest as representing the harness in which he fought at Bosworth. Within the sanctuary is a fine brass to the chantry priest John Bloxam (1519). He is shown holding a chalice and wafer. The parish register contains some interesting entries by a former vicar, Thomas Cox (1640), with reference to a rising of the common people which took place in these parts about 1607, resulting in a skirmish between the rioters and the "justices and gentry" of the neighbourhood. A hilly field to the E. of the village, known as Shooter's Hill, was once a burial ground, either British or Roman.

Little Addington, a mile to the S., has a very good Dec. church (St Mary), the arcade and the arch within the tower being particularly characteristic.

Adstone, formerly attached to Canons Ashby, is a tiny village pleasantly situated 1½ miles to the E. of Morton Pinkeney. The old manor house is quaint, but the trees in the garden have been neglected, and blue brick chimneys have superseded the old split sandstone chimneys. The church of All Saints dates from the 14th cent. The chancel is modern.

Althorp Park, the fine seat of the Earl of Spencer, Lord-Lieutenant of the county, is half a mile N. of its station (N.W.R.). The hamlet is mentioned in Domesday as Olletorp. The house, which stands in nearly 600 acres of beautiful park, consists of a central portion flanked by two wings, while the W. front is one long façade. The earliest part of the house dates from the beginning of the 16th cent., and was erected by a Sir John Spencer who received knighthood from Henry VIII. The beginning of the park was laid down by him and carried out by his successors who had property at Wormleighton, from whence Sir Robert Spencer, who possessed vast herds of sheep, created baron by James I., took his title. Charles I., created the third lord Earl of Sunderland, and his wife, Dorothy Sidney, was the Sacharissa of the poet Waller. She was a daughter of the Earl of Leicester. This Earl of Sunderland was killed at the battle of Newbury. His widow lived for a long time at Althorp, and in 1647 Charles I., who was then at Holdenby, visited her. Another royal visitor

was William III., who was here in 1695, in the time of the second Earl of Sunderland, the famous minister of James II. The title, on the death of the 5th Earl, became absorbed with that of the Duke of Marlborough, but the representative of the junior branch of the family, the great grandson of the 1st Duke, was created Earl Spencer and Viscount Althorp in 1763. The second Earl, who played an important part in politics, as one of the Portland Whigs, was first Lord of the Admiralty at the time of Trafalgar and developed the famous library about which the enthusiastic bibliographer Dibdin filled six volumes. This magnificent collection, singularly rich in early printed books by Caxton, Pynson and Wynkyn de Worde, and containing the unique Valdarfer Boccaccio, was bought by Mrs Peter Rylands from the present Earl and presented to the city of Manchester.

Both Evelyn the diarist and Horace Walpole have written about Althorp. The fine collection of pictures contains beautiful examples of the work of Frans Hals, Rubens, Titian, Vandyck, Kneller, Lely, Reynolds, Gainsborough, Murillo, and portraits by Gainsborough and Reynolds of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, daughter of the 1st Earl Spencer and part of a cartoon by Raphael ("the murder of the Innocents"). Just outside the park is the church at Brington (*q.v.*), in which are several interesting Spencer monuments.

In the park is situated the *falconry*, built at the time of James I., next to Althorp, a beauti-

ful specimen of renaissance work. It is now the home of the hunters of the Pytchley Hounds, whose summer kennels adjoin.

Aldwinkle is a village on the Nen, comprising the two parishes of St Peter and All Saints, a mile W. of Thorpe. The name is possibly derived from the A. S. "wincel," a corner, the river taking a very sharp bend here. The old stone houses and fine trees make the village a very picturesque one, and there are many "bits" of rural charm which will appeal to the artist. St Peter's church has the best broach spire in the county. It is late Dec. The string course is carved with grotesque heads and birds clinging head downwards. The capitals in the nave are E. Eng., each of a different design. The E. window has some portions of old glass, with portraits, doubtless, of two former rectors. At the end of the N. aisle is a late Dec. canopied tomb to some unknown worthy, and there is some old glass also in one of the S. aisle windows, in the border of which —the design is a white hare and a dog—probably the memory of Lord Lovel, the former lord of the manor (who had the *soubriquet* of the dog), is perpetuated. In the old rectory-house, pulled down in the 18th cent., the Church historian, Thomas Fuller, was born.

The church of All Saints has a good late Perp. tower with large lights and a tall window (with a niche above) over the W. door. The arcade in the nave is Dec. on its N. side, and E. Eng. on the S. The chancel arch and the

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APTHORP HOUSE

E window are also of this latter period. The *Chambre chantry* on the S. of the chancel is Perp., and has a fine piscina. The font is probably E. Eng. There is a brass with effigy to William Aldewyncle (1463) in the chancel, and one on the N. aisle wall to John Pickering, a physician and great uncle of the poet Dryden. On the N. side of the church is the picturesque old rectory where the poet Dryden was born in 1631, his grandfather being the rector from 1597 to 1637. The window of the room where the poet was born is over the front door.

Apethorpe, a small village, with a stream feeding the Nen as the eastern boundary of the parish, is 3 miles W. of Nassington. The interesting house (until recently the seat of the Earl of Westmoreland) stands, as one of the family, Julius Fane, puts it prettily in verse :—

> "Parked in an English pasturage as fair.
> As any that the grass-green isle can show."

The property came to the Mildmays in Edward VI.'s day, and Sir Walter Mildmay, a distinguished Puritan, the founder of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, built that and the house at Apethorpe on the same plan, that is with a double quadrangle. James I. visited it in 1603, and again in 1614, meeting George Villiers, afterwards his favourite, and Duke of Buckingham. At the end of the long gallery was a portrait of the founder of the house who, with Sir Amyas Paulet, carried Queen Mary's death

warrant to Fotheringhay. A replica of this is in Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Two Vandycks (which with the other contents were dispersed) were portraits of Rachel, daughter of the first Earl of Westmoreland, and James Stuart, Duke of Richmond, familiar to print collectors as the subject of a fine engraving. There were also two Reynolds, and a head of a Lady Westmoreland with a child, by Lawrence

A road through the fine park leads to Morhay Lawn, a true relic of the old forest. It is an open stretch with a dip towards the centre fringed with some wonderful old thorn bushes. To the W. are the famous old Morhay oaks. From their massive and, even in early days, probably venerable appearance and the grouping together, it is not difficult to understand that tales about them, and rumours of "ancient druidical rites," were common. The suffix "hay," which occurs in various places over the forest area (Fotheringhay and Woodhay, for example), signifies an enclosure for keeping in the deer. The church of St Leonard, late Perp., has an effigy belonging to a period of Henry VI.'s day when such things were not common. It is to John Dalton, 1475, and he is represented in armour and a tabard with the usual flap sleeves. Above the head is a rare feature, a sculptured representation of the crowning of the Virgin.

In the Park in 1858 the foundations of a Roman villa, which stood on the way (partly

traceable even now) from Fotheringhay to Stamford where it is connected up with Ermine Street, came to light. Its site was near the brook called Willow-brook. The villa covered a considerable space and contained several portions of tessellated pavement, while it was evidently supplied with the "modern" luxury of a bath-room. Silver coins of Severus, a brass one of Constantine, and several pieces of Castor ware also came to light.

Ashby S. Ledgers, a village 2 miles S.W. from Welton station, takes its name from the patron saint of its church, Leodegarius, a Bishop of Autun. It has two points of interest in the old manor house and the church. The manor was held by a Hugh de Grentemaisnil from William I. until the end of the 11th cent.; and in Richard II.'s reign it came to the Catesbys, one of whom, Sir William, is a minor character, but by no means insignificant to the plot, in Shakespeare's Richard II. He is buried in the church in accordance with the desire expressed in the will which he made just before he was executed, having been taken prisoner at Bosworth. Trouble seems to have been largely apportioned to his descendants, all of them ardent Roman Catholics; and Robert Catesby will be remembered as the leading spirit in the Gunpowder Plot. Over the gateway between the house and the church is a room which is always considered to have been the place of meeting of Winter, Rookwood, the Wrights, Percy, and the others. On the

morning of the discovery of the infamous design the conspirators returned post haste to Ashby, but in fear of being traced thither they quickly set off to Holbeche, a house near Stourbridge. After a two days' siege, by the sheriff of Staffordshire and his men, the house was set on fire; and in saving himself from this fresh peril, Catesby was shot.

The old manor house, with its three gables, is a low building with Tudor and Elizabethan portions. It stands prettily among the trees and its good oriel windows, its panelled hall, its courtyard in front and the clinging ivy, present a charming old world appearance. The gate-house is the older building although its staircase is comparatively modern. Several of the out-buildings are also of an early date.

The church is mainly Perp., the arcade (without a clerestory), the chancel (with a very wide arch), and four of the nave windows are of this period, while the tower is earlier. The rood screen (one of the few remaining in the county) is particularly light and graceful in design, and the staircase which leads to the loft is in the angle by the S. aisle. Within the sanctuary (which has a piscina and an ambry) is a fine canopied brass to the William Catesby of Richard III.'s day, 1485, and his wife Margaret Zouch (1494). Other brasses are one probably to George Catesby, a son of the above, in the S. aisle. The figure is that of a knight kneeling, and on the tabard are the Catesby arms. Another, also canopied but of plainer design, is conjectured

to be to Thomas Stokes and his wife (1416), and one to a priest, William Smyghte, a Warwickshire rector (1510), who is shown vested in surplice and hood. There are other monuments to the I'ansons (one of whom, Bryan, was the first purchaser in 1612 of the Catesby estates which escheated to the crown), Ashleys and Arnolds. There are other piscinæ, one in the Lady Chapel (or Catesby Chantry), and one, now detached, in N. aisle of chancel. Ashby Lodge, an early 18th cent. house, stands on some high ground about a mile to the N.W. of the village towards the Warwickshire border. It contains a portrait of the builder of the house (George Arnold) and his daughter, by Hogarth, who visited there.

Ashton, a small village which the N.W.R. cuts in two one mile S. of Roade, is in the Bucks corner. Its church of S. Michael and All Angels is late Perp., and has one of the very few "saddle back" towers in the county. It contains two interesting effigies—one a wooden one much damaged on a slab over the tomb of Sir Philip le Lou, Lord of the Manor in 1315: the other of alabaster of Sir John Herteshull (one of the Warwickshire family) surmounting an altar tomb of sandstone on the wall on the N. aisle. Another tomb, that of a merchant (who is shown wearing the gown of fur), is to Robert Marriott (1580), and contains brasses to himself, his wife, and family of nine sons and six daughters. Beneath some of them are quaint rhyming couplets. The scrolls which contained the dates are missing.

Ashton le Walls, a small village in the part where the borders of Warwickshire and Oxfordshire touch the county, is 2 miles S.W. of Byfield. It takes its name from an entrenchment which ran along from here to Kirtlington in Oxfordshire, a distance of 19 miles. There are several of these earthworks in this district. The church of S. Leonard dates from the earliest 13th cent. The chancel has a double piscina, and in a canopied recess is the recumbent effigy of a fully vested priest. The large square font is Norm. The W. tower has fallen into decay. There are brasses to the Butler family in the nave. The door of an aumbry retains its original ironwork of Edward II.'s time.

Aynho (G.W.R.) is a good sized village perched on an eminence 3 miles N.E. of Deddington on the road from Bucks to Banbury. Its church of S. Michael has a high and beautifully decorated tower in which the curvilinear style is strongly marked, with a fine W. door and window surmounting it. The lower buttresses are placed angularly, and in the face of each is a niche for a figure. The rest of the church has unfortunately been rebuilt in the so-called classic style so dear to the heart of the 18th cent. designer. Through Aynho Park (the manor was burnt down by the Royalists when they went from Naseby to Oxford) the old Portway runs. A roughly-shaped stone cist containing a skeleton (found in a kneeling posture) was found during some work upon the

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IN BADBY WOOD

road, now a walled-in park. The house contains some good pictures—five Murillos, portraits by Romney, Hoppner and Hogarth—bronzes, and a good library. The chief part of the manor formerly belonged to the father of the dramatist, Shakerley Marmion. As may be expected, the hilly and rocky ground in the neighbourhood abounds in springs and wells, most of which have lime and iron in solution, and the soil is so suitable for apricots that the cottages are covered with the trees.

Badby, which in many ways justifies its claim to be regarded as the prettiest village in the county, is pleasantly situated in a valley in a hilly and well-wooded part of the county on the road from Daventry to Banbury, 4½ miles west of Weedon. The village street leads up to Badby Wood (now incorporated into the Park of Fawsley), famous as a cover and a place of a well-known meet. The church of St Mary the Virgin has a remarkable Perp. clerestory consisting of ten windows without an intervening wall. The remaining portions are Dec. The embattled tower which is pinnacled was rebuilt in 1709, the spire which surmounted it having fallen down some few years previously. The chancel has two sedilia and a piscina, and there is a piscina also in the N. aisle in the eastermost pillar of the arcade. Arbury Hill, to the N. of the parish, is the probable site of a Roman encampment. It is a high plateau, level on the top. The source of the river Nen, called Nen Pool, is in a marshy tract at the base

of the hill to the N.W. The camp is mentioned as one of the boundaries in a grant of land made by Edmund the Elder in 944 to Ælfric, Bishop of Hereford, in which the parishioners of Badby (the place is called Badanbyrig), Dodford and Everdon were included. Arbury occurs as a designation given to earthworks in other parts of England. (There is one at Thenford.)

Barnack, a village of some size, lies in the N.E. corner of the county on the edge of the old fen district, and has a station on the G.N. branch between Stamford and Wansford, a mile from Uffington (on the Midland). Its quarries were famous in Roman days; and in 664 King Peada laid them under contribution for the stone for Peterborough, then Medeshamstede, Abbey. The rag was of singular durability, of oolitic formation, and mainly composed of shells cemented together by a chalky deposit. S. Edmund's Bury, Ely Cathedral, Ramsey Abbey, and other important buildings all over E. Anglia were built of this stone. The curiously broken up ground beyond the village to the N., now known as the "Hills and Holes," is the place where the old quarries were. A little further to the N. is the village of Pilsgate, where in the old days before the draining of the fens there was, in all probability, a wharf for the despatch of the stone by means of a waterway.

The Church of S. John the Baptist has, like the church at Earl's Barton, a Saxon tower, built to resemble woodwork, with slightly projecting bands. Over a window on the S. side

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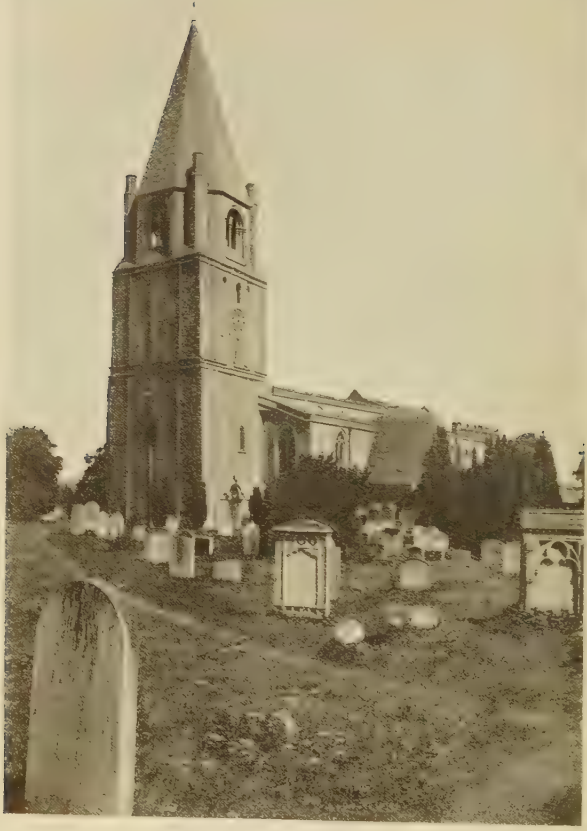

BARNACK CHURCH

is some rough carving of birds, and decorated slabs occur in the middle of the string course on three sides of the tower. The E.E. porch is one of the best in the county, the gable being of very acute pitch with an arched arcade inside. In the S. aisle is some excellent Perp. work. The E.E. font is a good specimen, and the nave has both E.E. and Norm. piers.

There are two canopied tombs with effigies —one, a dishonoured fragment, to Peter de Bernak, and a very fine one, of about the beginning of the 14th cent., of a female figure with good drapery.

Some traces of foundations outside the village at the hamlet of Southorpe are the remains of a summer residence, or sanatorium, of the Abbots of Peterborough. Walcot Hall, a fine old house, was formerly a seat of the Earls of Gainsborough.

BARNWELL (N.W.R.) a small and most picturesque village with its stream running down the centre, 2½ miles S.E. of Oundle, is now one parish (extending to the Hunts border) made up of two, St Andrews and All Saints, there formerly being two great manors in the same place, a common custom. The castle, of which some portions remain, was built by Berengarius le Moyne about 1264, but some years later, in Edward I.'s day, on a question as to his right to erect such a building, it was ceded to the Abbot of Ramsey, by whom it was held until the Dissolution, when Sir Edward Montagu, a Chief Justice of the time of Henry VIII.,

purchased and enlarged it. The remains, in the 18th cent., came to be used as a handy quarry for building stone. The portions now standing are the south gate, four bastions, and some of the outer wall; and admittance may be gained on application to Mr Wickham in whose grounds the castle stands. There are two pointed archways in the gateway, and the slit from whence the portculiis descended still remains. To the north were the rest of the house and stables, which were Sir Edward Montagu's additions. The ruins which are interspersed with trees present many picturesque "bits" for the artist.

S. Andrew's Church (which has been judiciously restored) is in the main Dec., the N. door being a very good specimen. The lower stage of the tower is E. Eng., and the S. porch is of the same period. The chancel retains some rather curious stone seats, one being a double one under a niche. In the N. Chapel is the coloured bust of Nicholas Latham (1620), a former rector, a great benefactor to the poor. The almshouse and school which he founded are to the S. of the church. The comparatively modern inscription on his tomb, which states that he had nothing but his emolument as a parson with which to be generous, does not correspond with his will by which he bequeathed to the almshouse certain property which he inherited from his father.

About half a mile up the stream which runs along by the village to join the Nen, is the remaining portion of the church, All Saints,

BARNWELL CASTLE

demolished about 1825. This is the chancel, and is the burying-place of the Montagus, the Earls of Sandwich. There is a curious marble one among the monuments to a Henry Montagu, who was drowned in 1627.

Barton Seagrave is reached by a delightful walk of 1¾ miles S.E. of Kettering. In a field to the right after crossing the bridge over the Ise are seen the remains of a deep moat, where it is said formerly stood a castle probably a Royal hunting lodge. On the left is Barton Seagrave Hall, the seat of Viscount Hood, where was born John Bridges, one of the most distinguished of our county historians. The church of S. Botolph is an excellent example of the early Norm. style. Notice the singular figures over the N. door, and the fine specimens of Norm. windows. The massive central embattled tower and the fine Norm. work on its arches are noteworthy. In the old chancel are very beautiful examples of E. Eng. wall-arcades occupying three of the walls. At the restoration in 1879 the S. aisle was widened, the Bridges chantry chapel enlarged and opened to form a chancel where the services are now performed. On the floor of the S. aisle are slabs with inscriptions to the Bridges family.

Benefield (Upper and Lower) is a village 3½ miles W. of Oundle, taking its name from one of those lawns or open spaces in the forest of Rockingham. A small castle built by Nicholas of Barsingbourne stood here in Henry III.'s time, the traces of the moat and founda-

tions are still discernible. The church of S. Mary has been practically rebuilt, the chancel of the original church being probably of the 14th cent. Its restoration is elaborate, with a modern well-carved rood screen and figures.

Billing (Great and Little). Great Billing is a village 4 miles N.E. of Northampton, standing prettily above a stream that runs into the Nen. The church of S. Andrew was internally restored in 1867 and is mainly Dec. It was considerably damaged by the fall of the steeple, which occurred after a lightning stroke in 1759. Traces of a still earlier church are seen in a Norm. capital and base. The parapet of the tower and portions of the nave have been incongruously adorned with building material from a mansion in the vicinity belonging to the Earls of Thomond, demolished in 1776. A large black marble tomb to the 7th Earl of Thomond (d. 1691) stands in the N. chapel. Billing hall is close to the site of the old seat of the Earls of Thomond. In the grounds, on a magnificent lawn, are some particularly fine old trees.

Little Billing has a church (All Saints) which contains an interesting Norm. font of the shape of a tall jar which belonged to a much earlier edifice. It bears an inscription: "WILBERHTUS ARTIFEX ATQ CEMENTARIUS HVNC FABRICAUIT QUISQVIS SVVM VENIT MERGERE CORPVS PROCVL DVBIO CAPIT." The river is here crossed by a one-arched bridge, where a sharp skirmish is said to have taken place during the Civil Wars, and in

the village are the remains of a 16th cent. manor house, which belonged to the Languevilles.

Blakesley (N.W.R.) is five miles W. of Towcester in the midst of pretty and thickly wooded country. A stream which runs through the little village is locally known as the Black Ouse and joins the Tove. The restored church of S. Mary the Virgin is late Perp. The small brass in the chancel is to Matthew Swetenham (1416), bow-bearer to Henry IV. The effigy is shown wearing armour and the SS. collar. Dryden the poet had a small estate here, but it no longer belongs to the family.

BLISWORTH (L.N.W.), 4 miles S. of Northampton, is a picturesque, irregular village, a mile away from the railway junction so well known to Northampton travellers, and approached by railway through the Roade cutting of two miles long which cost upwards of £200,000 to dig out. It has an air of former importance, and abounds in 16th and 17th cent. houses, many of them now degraded to the rank of cottages, substantially built of stone, with Tudor square-headed windows. It is on the main road to Towcester, and is approached from Northampton through a railway arch of almost classic proportions. The church of S. John the Baptist has a battlemented tower with naive aisle and chancel principally Dec. with a handsome Perp. screen and stalls. In the S. aisle is a founder's tomb under a peculiar canopy, of Roger Wake (d. 1503), with figures of himself, wife, and three children. Coins and

fragments of Romano-British pottery are constantly being found in the pits and wells in the neighbourhood.

Bodington (upper and lower) are villages 2½ miles W. of Byfield, where the county throws out a spur towards Warwickshire. The church of S. John the Baptist, in the upper village, is Perp., and contains near the W. door a fine old wooden chest, "dug" out of one piece, and bound with iron. There is a brass with effigy to William Procter, a former rector, (1627).

Boughton (in Domesday, Buchedoneor, the town of Bucks) is 1½ miles S.E. of Brampton Station, and is celebrated for the three days' fair which, established by charter in 1351, is held yearly on its extensive green. It has kept up its popularity to within recent times, and half a century ago was the great Saturnalia of the country side round. In Bridges' time (1720) it was kept with great solemnity, and the county families used to drive in state to dine in one of its many booths, and attend the rural sports. Formerly, the mother church of S. John the Baptist stood hard by the green, a mile away from the village, but a picturesque ruin, yearly crumbling away, is all that now remains. Grose gives a view of the tower and spire, which fell about 1785. The Dec. work is still traceable in the remaining parts. Up to fifty years ago it was the only parish burying-place. The present church in the village is poor and of late Perp. work.

Bozeat (Bosieti, in Domesday) is a village of some size in the corner where Beds. and Bucks touch the county, 4 miles S. of Castle Ashby Station. Its church of S. Mary is specially interesting from the fact that it has so far escaped anything like a restoration, although the tower and spire have been rebuilt, and some alterations in the chancel have been made. The old seats, set out with wide passages in place of the usual cramped arrangement to suit modern needs, remain, and give a refreshing and rare old world appearance to the interior. There is a Late Dec. choir screen (formerly painted as an *odd panel* found in the vicarage goes to prove) and a double piscina in the chancel.

Brackley (Gt. Central and N.W.R.), a small and very picturesque town of some 2400 inhabitants, stands on high ground on the Oxford and Northampton Road. The first charter of the borough is of Henry III.'s day, and in Edward II.'s time it was doing a considerable trade in wool. The de Quinceys and Zouches were the pre-feudal lords, and the castle, which apparently fell into decay in very early days, is only remembered by the name of the hill which was no doubt its site. Brackley comes into notice during the struggle between the barons and the two kings, John and Henry III., the former potentate when at Oxford sending to the town to learn the claims of his bold lords. Here also Simon de Montfort met the ambassador of the French King when the dispute between him and the sovereign was to

be referred to arbitration. In 1643 the Earl of Essex made it the place of meeting when he was marching to the relief of Gloucester.

Of the two hospitals founded in the 12th cent. the chapel of the one to S. John and James built by Robert de Burn, Earl of Leicester, is still in existence, and in use for parochial purposes. It has a low tower on the north-west, and was restored first in 1745 and then in 1870. The other hospital which has disappeared was that of S. Leonard, which like most institutions dedicated to that saint was for the relief of lepers. It was founded about 1280, and its patrons were the same as those of the other hospital. According to Leland it must have stood, with the chapel, at the N. end of the town.

The church of St Peter is interesting from its fine Early English tower. In the niches over the W. door are two figures, probably St Peter and St Hugh, and the belfry stage is very decorative from its arcade and brackets. Under the east of chapel is a groined crypt with a single central pillar. The main street of the town has an avenue of trees, and midway down it is the Town Hall, an early 18th cent. building. The arcade beneath has been closed in for the Corn Exchange.

Brampton Ash, 4 miles east of market Harborough, adjoins Dingley. The church of S. Mary, in the early Perp. style, is conspicuous, not only on account of its commanding situation, but also for the exceeding beauty of its tower

and broached spire, which are seen for miles. The view from the churchyard and fields adjoining is very fine, commanding a vast extent of rich pasture land. The interior of the church is interesting from its simplicity. The chancel is E. E. On the S. wall is an interesting mural monument to Sir Charles Norwich and his wife. There are some fine brasses on the floor, commemorative of members of this family, who were for generations lords of this manor, and one of whom, according to tradition, early in the 18th cent. lost the whole lordship "at one throw of the dice" to Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, through whose second daughter it descended to the Spencers of Althorp, whose care for the village is seen in the commodious model cottages and fine farm-houses. The fine manor house is opposite the entrance to the rectory. In this parish is a farmstead known as the "Hermitage"—where was once a "Moated Grange"—an appendage of Dingley Preceptory.

BRAUNSTON (N.W.R.) is a village of some size, 3 miles N.W. of Daventry, standing on high ground, at the foot of which the Grand Junction Canal runs along, joining up with the Oxford Canal a little distance off. It is a picturesque place, and with its wharves and boat-building yards presents an interesting aspect of activity. The church of All Saints is a building of sandstone in the Dec. style, entirely rebuilt in 1847. In the lady chapel is a relic of the former building in the shape of a recumbent

effigy of a knight in mail, to one of the De Ros family, who held the manor from the days of John until the beginning of the 16th cent.

Braybrooke, a small village 3 m. from Desborough Station, once had a castle, the home of the Latimers, and later of the Griffins, of which some mounds in a field mark the site. The former family encouraged the Lollards, a sect strong in this locality, and one of the Latimers directed that he should be buried in the "uttermost corner of the churchyard" as a penance for his heresy. The Early Renaissance monument of a Griffin in the chancel is remarkable from the manifold heraldic bearings of that ancient family. The castle, which was partly blown up by accident in Henry IV.'s time, was visited by James II., then Duke of York, in 1665. The church of All Saints' is E. Eng. and has been well restored. Here is a wooden effigy of ill proportion, representing Sir Thomas de Latymer, died 1334.

Preserved in the church is a rare object, a "vamping" of brass, like a megaphone, 5 feet long, with a diameter of 25 inches at the larger end. It was employed by the sextons to summon people to church. There is an example in Harrington church.

Brigstock, an extensive village standing on both sides of Harper's Brook, crossed by an attractive old bridge, from which it takes its name. It is about in the centre of the old Forest of Rockingham, 5 m. from Geddington (M.R.), and 5½ N.W. of Thrapston

(N.W.R.). A most interesting feature of the church of St Andrew, which in the main is of the early 11th cent., is the Saxon round tower on the W. of the tower, formerly containing the steps to the belfry. The rest of the church is in the main later Saxon, and particularly noteworthy are the round arch opening into the nave and the triangular-headed doorway beneath. In the chancel is a fine niche and a piscina, and the steps which led to the rood loft remain. At the old "Three Cocks" are the kennels of the renowned Pytchley hounds, and the old "Hale" manor house, visited more than once by King John, is the residence of the master.

Farmingswoods, a little to the N. of the village, was an old shooting-box in the village, given by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Christopher Hatton. Round about it are some fine trees, relics of the ancient forest.

Brington, a typical rural parish 6 m. N.W. of Northampton, lies a mile to the S.W. of Althorp Park Station (N.W.R.), and contains the villages of Great Brington, Little Brington (on the S. side of the valley), and the hamlet of Nobottle.

The substantial-looking church, with its square embattled tower, stands well on high groundwhich dips down sharply to the W. An avenue of elms leads to the churchyard gates, and by these is a cross. There is a small Dec. capital at the top of the octagonal shaft, which stands on three steps, and above this a small broken octagonal column.

The church (St Mary the Virgin) is mainly

Dec., the chancel and some other portions being Perp. These later additions were the work of Sir John Spencer (1522), and said to have been designed by Thomas Hermitage, rector in 1513, who, besides being chaplain to Henry VIII., was Surveyor of the King's Works at Westminster. There is a canopied arch on the outside of S. wall with a recumbent effigy of an unknown priest, which came to light after the removal of a mound which had collected against it some years ago.

The open oak benches are massive and interesting survivals of Pre-Reformation days, with end ornaments of poppy heads, with shields below. On the chancel floor, near the N. chapel, is one of the Washington tombs, a stone slab with a carving of the arms of Washington impaling Butler. The letters are almost unworn, the stones being protected by a wooden cover.

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF LAWRENCE
WASHINGTON SONE AND HEIRE OF
ROBERT WASHINGTON OF SOULGRAVE
IN THE COUNTIE OF NORTHAMPTON
ESQUIER WHO MARRIED MARGARET
THE ELDEST DAUGHTER OF WILLIAM
BUTLER OF TEES IN THE COUNTIE
OF SUSSEXE ESQUIER WHO HAD ISSU
BY HER 8 SONNS AND 9 DAUGHTERS
WHICH LAURENCE DECEASED THE 13
OF DEC. A.D. 1616.

THOU THAT BY CHANCE OR CHOYCE
OF THIS HAST SIGHT
KNOW LIFE TO DEATH RESIGNES
AS DAY TO NIGHT;

BUT AS THE SUNNS RETORNE
REVIVES THE DAY,
SO CHRIST SHALL US
THOUGH TURNED TO DUST AND CLAY.

This Laurence Washington was the ancestor of the first President of the United States. The family, of good yeoman stock, apparently originated in Lancashire. Laurence, probably a wool merchant, was twice Mayor of Northampton, first in 1532, and again in 1545. Between these times he received from Henry VIII., after the Dissolution, the manor of Sulgrave, with property from three priories. His son Robert and grandson Laurence sold the Sulgrave property in 1610; and young Laurence with his brother (also named Robert) removed to Brington. Both these brothers' monuments remain, and on the tomb of Robert Washington is a clear representation in brass of the family arms which were at one time considered to be the origin of the "Stars and Stripes" of the United States. They show at least a remarkable coincidence in the decorative idea—"Argent, two bars gules, in chief, three mullets of the second," which, put in plain English, is a white shield crossed horizontally by two red bars, and three red, five-pointed stars across the top.

The magnificent monuments to a long line of Spencers are in the N. chapel, which is of the date of the chancel, and is separated from it by three pointed arches, each filled by a great altar tomb. Every one is complete and perfect, with scarcely a scratch upon their marble; and

the most modern of the series, carved more than two centuries ago, is as clear cut as though it had been done quite recently. The first tomb is that of Sir John Spencer and his wife, Isabella Graunt, of Snitterfield, Warwickshire, the great sheep owner, who figures in the short description of the Spencer family given under Althorp. In his will, made two days before his death at Wormleighton, he desired to be buried in the chancel of Brington Church, and left £20 for a tomb and £11 for the repair of the church, for his arms to be placed in the windows (where they still are), and for the making of an image of Our Lady. The effigies are beneath an elaborate canopy. Sir John is represented clad in full plate armour. On his tabard are the ancient, and now discarded, arms of Spencer. His wife is clad in a white kirtle over a scarlet gown; across her bosom is a rich heraldic mantle; she wears a rosary at her girdle, and three massive gold chains round her neck; from under the high head-dress, her hair flows behind her shoulders to the waist. The date of her decease is not recorded. Under the second arch is the monument of Sir John Spencer (1586), and his wife Katherine, daughter of Sir Thomas Kitson, of Hengrave Hall, Suffolk, the grandson of Sir John Spencer before mentioned. The effigy shows him in a complete suit of armour, over which is the tabard charged with the arms of Spencer, both ancient and modern. His wife has her hair gathered into a long hood. The inscription records the names

and marriages of the children of Sir John Spencer, with a curious interpolation of an additional honour to the husband of one of the daughters. The third arch has an altar tomb, to Robert, first Baron Spencer of Wormleighton, and his wife, Margaret Willoughby, of Wollaton, Nottinghamshire. He was grandson of the second Sir John Spencer, sheriff of the county in 1601. In an angle of the chapel is a curious bust of Sir Edward Spencer, who died in 1655. The east window of the chapel is built up by a large mural monument in memory of John, the first Earl Spencer, who died 1783. It is the work of the famous Nollekens. Below this monument is Flaxman's beautiful tablet to Georgiana, Countess Spencer, who died in 1816. Beneath the vault, but without any inscriptions, lie Henry, first Earl of Sunderland (who was brought here from Newbury), and his son and grandson—Robert, the famous Secretary of James II., and Charles, a minister of James I.

The roll of Brington rectors contains the names of a large number of distinguished Churchmen. John de Everdon, presented to the living by Edward III. in 1309, was a Baron of the Exchequer. He was afterwards Chancellor of Exeter and Dean of St Paul's. Nicholas Budwyth was confirmed rector by a Papal Bull, dated February 4th, 1396. From being Bishop of London he was translated to Salisbury and thence to Bath and Wells, and visited Rome in 1414. Henry Chicheley was Archbishop of

Canterbury in 1558. Thomas Pierce, "a smooth preacher and a bitter writer," rector in 1660, was President of Magdalen College, Oxford, Canon of Canterbury, Prebendary of Lincoln, and Dean of Salisbury. Dr Jessop, who built the old rectory (whom Evelyn mentions when on a visit to Lady Sunderland at Althorp), became Prebendary of Durham. He was followed by Charles Trimnell, Bishop of Norwich in 1707, and of Winchester in 1721. The next, Dr Henry Downes, held four Irish bishoprics in succession. Dr William Trimnell, the next, became Dean of Winchester. He was followed by Nicholas Clagett, who was bishop, first of St David's and then of Exeter.

The church possesses some interesting sacramental plate. The massive flagon, the gift of the first Baron Spencer, dated 1605; a silver cup and paten 1715; a large silver alms dish, 1775, and two pewter plates with interesting inscriptions, relative to the donors, Simon and John Leeson, 1653.

Through a series of misfortunes, Laurence Washington's successors were not able to continue their residence at Sulgrave, and Laurence Washington, the grandson, accepted the kind offer of his friend and kinsman, Lord Spencer, of a refuge at Brington. A house was built for him at Little Brington, where another son, who only lived a day or so, was born. This loss, doubtless, suggested the inscription still to be seen over the doorway of their house.

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THE LORD GEVETH
THE LORD TAKETH
AWAY BLESSED BE THE
NAME OF THE LORD
CONSTRVCTA
1606

An old sun-dial, a round sandstone slab, was discovered in a garden at Little Brington bearing the Washington arms, and the date 1617. It belonged to Robert Washington, who was the uncle of the Rev. Laurence Washington, the father of the two emigrants to Virginia.

BRIXWORTH (L.N.W.) is a large scattered village on the Leicester road, 6 m. N. of Northampton. Its one great attraction to antiquaries is its possession of perhaps the oldest and certainly one of the most interesting churches in the kingdom, for the best authorities refer it to a very early period—built by the Saxons in the 7th cent. from the ruins of a Roman villa found ready to their hands. As can be seen from a very cursory inspection of the arcades, Roman tiles and bricks have been extensively used in their construction, but not *more Romano*.

The history of the church bears out its claim to antiquity. Hugo, the Monk of Peterborough (1107-55), records that it was built at the end of the 7th cent., when Brixworth was a dependency of Medeshamstede. One can trace the successive stages in its architectural development from the Saxon days to the time of Henry VI. Perhaps after the Romano-Saxon

arcades the most striking feature is the round tower affixed to the square western tower, loopholed for arches, with a winding stairway and a three-light window with mid-wall shaft like those in Earls Barton Tower. Tanner in his "Notitia" gives the date of the round tower as soon after 870, when the Danes had destroyed the original aisles. Baldwin Brown, in his "Arts in Early England," judges that the round and square towers were built at the same period.

The nave consists of four bays with semi-circular arches, principally of Roman brick, mostly in two courses upon square imposts, the spaces between the piers having been filled up probably in the 12th or 13th cent. Above on either side are three clerestory windows of the same form, but smaller, not immediately over the lower arches but in the space between each two. The masonry is all exceedingly rude. Herring-bone work appears in irregular patches, but there is no indication of long and short work, and in addition to the Roman material, the neighbouring Oolite stone with pieces of granite, sandstone, and slate, are used indiscriminately.

The Romans are supposed to have had a settlement here of some kind, and coins of Antoninus and the later emperors have been found together with urns. The lower part of the square tower, which is surmounted by a fine spire, is of the same character as the nave, with similar arches on the four sides. The E. E. S. aisle was added as a mortuary chapel for the Verdun family, and a first-rate

BRIXWORTH CHURCH

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effigy of a Verdun, 1296, rather damaged, with the links of the mail carved on the stone. There is a small crypt.

Bugbrooke (in Domesday, Buchebroc) is midway between Blisworth and Weedon, about 4 miles from each. The church of St Michael was a small E. E. edifice to which the tower and spire (Dec.) and the clerestory (Perp.) were subsequently added. It has kept its fine Perp. rood screen, with one of the few remaining canopies in the county. There is also a sanctus bell in the belfry. The S. aisle was added in 1890, then the church underwent extensive restoration, during which a fine window was opened up and glazed, at the end of the N. aisle. In Henry I.'s day the church was attached to the Norman Abbey of Grestien.

Byfield is a picturesque village of some size lying in a valley on the road between Banbury and Daventry, from which latter place it is 7 m. to the S.W. The chief of the farmhouses are grouped together in the parish, and make with the many intervening trees a prettily broken view. The fine church of the Holy Cross dates in the main from 1350. It stands on the site of a building erected a century earlier, and the dark colour of the local ironstone is effective. The nave is particularly fine, and the spire, rising from a four-staged tower, has some massive angle turrets. The chancel windows are peculiar from their unusual tracery and flat headings. There are three sedilia and a piscina in the chancel. The tracery-panelled seat

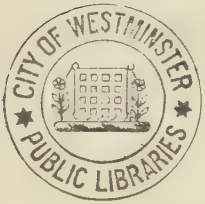
ends of about 1450 are excellent examples of old Northamptonshire carpentry. The W. front is very decorative and has three canopied niches. There is a transept on the S. side known as the Trafford aisle, from a manor house which formerly stood in one part of the parish.

CANONS ASHBY. (See *Moreton Pinkney*.)

CASTLE ASHBY (L.N.W. station, 2 m.), 7 m. from Northampton, the seat of the Marquis of Northampton, is full of interest, both as a mansion and for its picturesque surroundings. It stands out boldly on high ground commanding a far-reaching view of the Nene valley with its winding stream, and many a spire and tower breaking the distant sky-line.

The first mention of it is in Edward I.'s day, when Walter de Langton, Bishop of Lichfield, had license from the king to fortify his mansion at Esseby with "kernelled" (crenellated) walls, after the manner of a castle—hence its modern name.

The present house dates from Elizabethan times, with additions in James I.'s reign by Inigo Jones. The most striking feature is the use of the lettered balustrade, on which are displayed verses from the 127th Psalm, "Nisi Dominus ædificaverit domum," and this has been happily imitated in the more modern additions to the gardens and lodges. It has been in the possession of the present family, the Comptons, since the reign of Henry VIII. They were long before settled at Compton Winyates in Warwickshire, another of their seats.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THE MILL, CASTLE ASHBY

The house contains some interesting pictures. Among the family portraits are those of Henry, Lord Compton (*temp.* Elizabeth), by Zucchero, who commenced the existing house, and the second Earl, killed at Hopton Heath, a fine canvas by Janssen. In the great hall is a picture by West of the eighth Earl, who took so leading a part in the Northampton spendthrift election in 1768, with his wife and children, by Copley. Other pictures are contemporary portraits of John Talbot, the great soldier who fell at Chatillon (1453), and his wife, both among the earliest portraits in the kingdom. A reputed "Duke of Buckingham after his assassination," by Vandyck, is powerful but gruesome. Here also is preserved the Clephane horn of ivory (11th cent.), and also the iron hand and arm made for another member of the same family, described by Sir Walter Scott. Many of the ceilings, chimney-pieces, and tapestries are distinctive.

The gardens, one of the glories of Ashby, are open to the public weekly. The church is close by the house. It has a fine Norman door on the N. side with a Perp. nave and chancel and Dec. N. aisle, all thoroughly well restored by Street. Its principal interest lies in its monuments. In the chancel is a cross-legged effigy in mail, the second earliest in the county, of David de Esseby (1265), and a large and important brass, of a rector (d. 1401). At the W. end of the nave is an imposing Angel of the Resurrection by Tenerani (1851), and a

touching figure by Marochetti of the wife of the Hon. Leveson-Gower. There are some fine gates of Italian iron-work on the S. side of the house.

Following the main avenue to the Bedford Road, the walk may be continued on to Yardley Chase, through the far-stretching ridings, through which it is a summer day's delight to wander. Though it has lost much of the old forest characteristics, such as are yet to be found in the New Forest, it still possesses a few of those venerable oaks which may have been coeval with the Druids. Cowper's Oak, which stands among a group of three, is the great object of pilgrimage. This is best reached from Yardley village (1½ m.). It lies 3 m. from Olney and Weston Underwood; and the poet's walk, often indulged in, must have led him through some of the wildest portions of the Chase. From Yardley, two other gigantic veterans, "Gog and Magog," are passed on the right of the road.

CASTOR, a village of some size, separated from Huntingdonshire by the Nene, is 1 m. from its station and 4 m. W. of Peterborough. It has been identified as the site of an important Roman station, Durobrivæ. St Kyneburga, daughter of King Peada, to whom the church is dedicated, is said to have founded a monastery here in the 7th cent., which was destroyed by the Danes at the beginning of the 12th cent. The very interesting church is of fine proportions, and is one of the most beautiful

YARDLEY CHASE—THE OAK "GOG"

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CASTLE ASHBY

examples of a Norman parish church in the kingdom. Its special feature is the central tower, rising in two stays. The spire is 14th cent., as is also the parapet, which, from its heavy character, does much to detract from the effect. The lower stage of this fine tower has windows of two lights, and the upper one has arcades of five arches on each side, two of them being pierced for belfrey windows. The wall space is decorated with an effective design based upon the bulet and scallop ornaments. The pillars supporting the central tower have quaintly carved capitals. The door in the S. porch is of great age and retains its old lock and key. The N. aisle contains the remains of a shrine, doubtless to that of the patron saint and her sister Kyneswitha, whose remains were subsequently removed to Peterborough Cathedral. There is a curious early Doric effigy to a priest, 1228.

The site of the Roman station is called "The Castles," on the side of the river opposite to the village. There was a smaller, or "outpost," camp at Chesterton, a mile to the S.W. Extending for several miles along the river was a famous Roman pottery, the local clay forming excellent material. The quality of the ware was better than that of any made in the island, and the district has yielded the best finds of the Roman potters' kilns. Castor pottery was made in black, red, and cream colour, and has been found glazed and plain, and frequently decorated with spirited designs.

The remains of several Roman villas have been figured by Artis in his series of plates (see BIBLIOGRAPHY), and one of the pavements was laid down in a dairy at Milton, about a mile and a half towards Peterborough, where the river is crossed by an 18th-cent. bridge.

Catesby (Upper and Lower) is a little village on the Leam by the Warwickshire border, 4 m. S.W. of Daventry. A fine avenue of elms, of great age, connects the two villages. There was a chapel to SS. Mary and Edmund in the upper village, which, like the Priory, was demolished at the time of the Dissolution. The Priory, founded about 1175 by Philip de Esseby, was a house of Cistercian nuns and was in the lower village. A part of the S. wall still stands, and what were doubtless the fish ponds are to be seen. Some of the stone work—such as the sedilia and a piscina—is incorporated in the chapel built in 1861, which replaced the original structure and the one added to it in the early part of the 17th cent. The rule of this house was exceptional in that it was directed by a master or warden. This similarity to the Gilbertine custom, together with, possibly, the confusion of the name with Catleby in Lincolnshire, has led to its being included among the houses of that Order.

Over the entrance to a cottage in the upper village is a fine 14th-cent. archway, which doubtless came from the Priory.

Chalcomb, a small village to the N.W. of Middleton Cheney, has a late Dec. church

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CASTLE ASHBY—THE LONG GALLERY

(SS. Peter and Paul), formerly attached to Chalcombe Priory, an Augustinian house founded by Hugh Chalcomb, Henry II.'s Justiciary of Normandy. There is a brass in a slab on the chancel floor with the emblem of the Holy Trinity, the arms of the City of London, and the arms of the Merchant Adventurers. It is to Michael Fox (1569), who purchased the Priory. The basin of the font is Norman, and a Norman shaft by the S. door carries the figure of a priest, and on either side of this are crosses, evidently consecration marks. There are traces of the rood loft at the end of the N. aisle, which has a sedilia and a piscina. There is also a piscina in the chancel. At the west end of the village is Chalcomb Priory. At the Dissolution there were nine canons here. Some portions of the building remain, including some bits of the chapel.

Charwelton (G.C.R.) is a small village on the Warwickshire border between Banbury and Daventry. Church Charwelton is across the fields and consists of the church and the manor house. The village migrated when the road was changed, probably after the Wars of the Roses. The Perp. church of the Holy Trinity contains some very good brasses, the large one to Thomas Andrews (1496), in the centre of the nave, being one of the best in the county. The effigies of the merchant and his wife are under an elaborate canopy which is continued over the figures of the eight children. Another remarkably good brass is

also in the nave, that to the wife of another Thomas Andrew (1490), with a marginal inscription and shields at the corners. An altar tomb in the chancel carries the effigies of yet another Andrew, a Sir Thomas (1564, who by this time varies the spelling to Andrue), and his two wives. An inscription in Latin and English runs round the tomb, and on its sides are shields and effigies of children. These four monuments are interesting as showing the gradual rise of the family—Merchant, Gentleman, Squire, and Knight. A well, which is the actual source of the river Charwell, is in the cellar of an old farmhouse, Charwell House. Near by is the early 13th-cent. Packhorse Bridge, against which one of recent date has been placed to carry the road. Only occasionally, however, is the flow of water at this part great enough to render the bridge of practical use.

The name of the manor house close to the church (Bittlesden) is due to the fact that the abbey of the same name (in Bucks) held it at one time. The house has some nice old oak panelling, carved with grotesque heads and figures, and probably put in by one of a family of Adams, who enlarged it in the 17th cent.

Chipping Warden (so named from its charter, granted by Henry III., for a market) is a pretty village 3 m. S.W. of Byfield. Near a large elm in the village are the steps and a portion of the base of a cross. The fine old manor house, panelled throughout with beautiful

oak, and with a fine Inigo Jones staircase, was begun by one of the Saltonstalls in the 16th cent. The church of SS. Peter and Paul, mainly Dec., is interesting. The centre aisle and arcade are clearly much later than the side aisles. The chancel has E.E. sedilia and a window, and retains its piscina, and two Norm. arches have been built into its S. wall. In the N. aisle there is a fine niche and a squint opening into a chamber which was evidently the chapel of the Saltonstalls, who lie buried in a large vault beneath. There is a good brass to one of the Makepeace family (a man, his wife, and fifteen children), who were near relations to the Washingtons.

Church Brampton, 1 m. from its station on the N.W. and 4 m. N.W. of Northampton, is a picturesque village. The church, a good example of the Dec. style, stands on a striking situation and makes a charming study for the artist.

In the church is a very old coffer, bound on the lid, front, and sides with ironwork, the scrolls of which are not split from the stem, but joined to small blocks, resembling binding-straps. Viollet-le-Duc puts this chest down as dating from the last years of the 12th cent. It is figured in Roe's "Ancient Coffers and Cupboards," 1902.

Over the S. door is a well-carved royal shield, which is noteworthy from the fact that the quarterings are transposed, the lions of England being placed in the first and fourth

quarters, the fleur-de-lis of France being in the second and third. The arms of France and England were first quartered by Edward III., and this shield would indicate that the church was erected about the time that monarch first laid claim to the throne of France, and that it was probably an early example before the custom became familiar to the carver.

Cogenhoe, a pleasant village 1 m. from Billing Station, and just over 5 to the E. of Northampton, is commonly called Cookno, thus retaining the sound of its original name, Gucken Ho, or outlook hill, the only Spion Kop of England. The village stands on an edge of land which slopes to the E., and from the point where it projects into the Nene valley, on which the church stands, a good view stretching for some miles both up and down the river is obtained.

The first of the interesting family of Cogenho connected with this place was William of that name, mentioned in the days of Henry II. The main builder of the particularly interesting church of St Peter (Perp. with good E.E. and Dec. portions) was Nicholas de Cogenho (d. 1280) whose effigy is near the altar of St Nicholas, which he in all probability set up. The earliest work is the Trans. S. door. In the chancel is the rare instance of a plain stone bench serving as a sedilia; a cushion cover of the time of Henry VII., doubtless made for this bench, is preserved in the church—a most interesting piece of needlework.

A remarkable feature of the church is the

COGENHOE CHURCH

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series of shields on the piers of the nave arcade. They are of high interest as very early examples of heraldry in such situations, showing the narrow ordinaries before they were widened to receive changes. A description of the church was communicated to the Society of Antiquaries in 1903 by Mr Hartshorne, and is printed in their "Proceedings." A lamentable feature of the restoration of the church—which otherwise was carried out with discretion—was the removal of the old bench ends. They had finials of peculiar design, and were earlier than the usual 15th cent. panelled aud traceried seats common in the Midlands.

CORBY, an ancient village about 8 m. N.E. of Kettering, in which is the Weldon and Corby station of the M.R. Like Gretton, Weldon, and other old forest villages, it is conspicuous for the number of early Stuart cottages, with handsome, massive stone chimneys—a feature of the district. St Peter's Church, recently restored, and a north aisle added, is E.E., and has a good tower with spire. The arch (triangular) of the founder's tomb is unusually large, and there is a good triple sedilia, with piscina, and the font is also good. The men of this township, like those of some other royal manors, hold a charter exempting them from tolls, jury services, and conferring other privileges. Corby Charter dates from the twenty-seventh year of Elizabeth, and was confirmed by Charles II. Every twenty years a modified saturnalia is held in the village, professedly by virtue of this charter, but no

writings have yet been found to confirm this theory. On these occasions all the entrances to the village are blocked, and any one entering has to pay a fine, or sit in the stocks, or ride astride a pole carried by the villagers. The last "Corby Fair" was kept in 1902, and was attended by thousands of people.

Cotterstock (L.N.W.), 2 m. from Oundle Station, with a pretty rural walk to it from the station, is a characteristic, old-world, Northamptonshire village. The church (St Andrew) has some interesting features. It has a large Dec. chancel with some fine windows, three sedilia, and a brass to Robert Wymbryngham. There is a door which formerly led into a chauntry or college founded in 1339, of which some remains are still discernible in the adjoining cottages.

In the Elizabethan hall of the village, John Dryden is said to have written his fables, and his letters to his cousin, Mrs Steward, have preserved for us many records of the pleasant visits he paid here in his old age. Some of the incidents of his journeys to and fro between Cotterstock and London are quaint reminiscences of the times.

In 1736 a fine Roman pavement was discovered here, and Vertue engraved a plate of it for the Society of Antiquaries.

Cottesbrooke, a pretty little village lying in a well-wooded district, is 2 m. W. of Brixworth. Two brooks which feed the Nene run through it, and the church of All Saints lies in

a little hollow amongst some fine trees in the centre of the village. It is a fine example of Dec. work, with a simple, well-designed tower, and the whole of it can be dated quite at the beginning of the 14th cent. There is an old family pew with a fireplace. The four shields on the tower bear the arms of the Butvileyns, lords of the manor in the 14th cent.

Cottesbrooke Hall, with a fine deer park of over 150 acres, is a house of the time of George II.

COTTINGHAM, 8 m. from Market Harborough and 3 from Rockingham Station (L. & N.W.R.), is a quaint, old-fashioned forest village, straggling irregularly and picturesquely amid the hills on which it stands. The cottages are, many of them, examples of an earlier stage of civilisation. With the exception of the Bury House, there is no building of special interest. The very interesting church of St Mary Magdalen is E.E., and occupies an elevated position E. of the village. On the capital of one of the pillars is a singular group representing a bishop, two knights, and a lady. The church has been well restored. A fine view of the surrounding country is obtained from the higher parts of the churchyard. Leaving the village by the road passing the ugly, self-asserting factory on the top of the hill, the tourist will find on his left a most extensive prospect over the fertile valley of the sluggish, winding Welland, which can hardly be surpassed for beauty.

Courteenhall (L.N.W., Roade Station 1 m.), 5 m. from Northampton, is a small sequestered village, the seat of the Wakes, settled here since the 17th cent.

The church (SS. Peter and Paul) is delightfully situated, and has a monument (1672) to Sir Samuel Jones and his wife, in white marble. The old free school, built about 1672, is worthy of notice.

CULWORTH (G.C.R.) is a large and pleasant village 4 m. N.W. of Helmdon (N.W.R.). The old manor house of the Danvers (to whom are several monuments in the church) has lost most of its old portions. It was visited in 1644 by Charles I., who passed through it on his way with his army. The Coleworths held the manor from the 12th to the 15th cents., and then a Roland Danvers acquired it. On the village green are the steps and base of the usual cross, and an old grocer's shop still has its curious stone sign—a sugar loaf and a small broom. Very little of the original building remains in the restored church of St Mary, but the old oak pews are good, and, with the carved pulpit, are Jacobean. The arch on the S. of the chancel (which retains a piscina and aumbrey) is probably the tomb of an early Culworth or Coleworth, as the name is varyingly spelt. In the church chest are some interesting muster rolls of Elizabeth's time.

CRANFORD (St Andrew and St John), 4 m. S.E. of Kettering, has a station on the M.R. Ecclesiastically the two parishes are now

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, COURTEENHALL

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united in one rectory, but each has its own parish officers. The churches date from about the same period, both bearing traces of their Norman origin. St Andrew's has a very fine W. door. In the N. chapel are some curious brasses against the wall to members of the Fossebrook family. One of these, Dame Matilda Fossebrook, is recorded to have been "dry nurse —*sicca nutrix*—to Henry VI." In the S. chantrey are memorials to the Robinson family. Cranford Hall, the seat of Sir Frederick Robinson, Bart., is close to the church. It is a large but not very picturesque mansion. There is a charming view of the church and hall from the opposite parish of St John.

In St John's Church the S. aisle is modern. The design in the E. window commemorates the union of the two benefices. Notice the lower arch in the W. bay of the nave, also the beautiful cross on the E. end of the N. aisle. In this parish is a good old manor house in which is a staircase worth seeing. There are extensive and valuable ironstone quarries in both parishes.

CRANSLEY, 3½ m. S.W. from Kettering, has some extensive ironstone works, employing many hands. The church of St Andrew is very fine, the greater part being transitional from E.E. to Dec. The tower and clerestory are of the later date. The cranes on some of the windows refer to the Cransley family, once lords of the manor. In the S. aisle are monuments to Edward Dalyson and his wife, 1515, and one with a representation of a skeleton to Edward Barn-

well, 1557. Cransley Hall is a handsome mansion very pleasantly situated near the church.

Crick, a village 2 m. S.E. of Kilsby Station (N.W.R.), takes its name from the Anglo-Saxon "cerrig," whence we derive "crag." The church of St Margaret, with its beautiful tower and spire, is a mixture of styles, of which the Dec. portions are the most noteworthy and of great beauty, the E. window and several others being particularly noticeable. There are some curious corbels to the chancel windows, and the sedilia are very ornamental. The cylindrical bowl of the font rests upon three curious figures of dwarfs. The Union Canal passes by the village, and runs under a long tunnel; and the old Watling Street lies a little to the W. of it.

Dallington is a village 1½ m. N.W. of Northampton on the Rugby Road. The church (St Mary) is a small building partly E.E. with later Dec. work, with a N. chapel, a S. porch, and a tower with five bells. There are piscinas both in the chancel and the N. aisle, while the former contains a squint and an aumbrey. The church was in all probability built by the first of a long line of De Lucys. The manor was subsequently held by Richard Raynsford, one of the judges of the martyr King Charles, whose son, Sir Richard, became Chief Justice in 1679, and who lies beneath a large black and white marble monument in the N. aisle. Adjoining the church is a small stone mansion, Dallington Hall, the seat of the Right Hon. Charles Robert

Spencer. It was built by Sir Joseph Jekyll, a Master of the Rolls, who died in 1745, and who left his fortune to the Crown for the reduction of the National Debt. Traces of an early pottery have been found here, and fragments of rough ware, both Roman and British, very similar to the Castor pottery, brought to light. In the adjoining parish of Duston, which lies a little to the S.W., is the site of a Roman villa, and fragments of mosaic, bronze ornaments, Samian ware, and coins up to the time of Constantine (337 A.D.) have been found.

DAVENTRY (L. & N.W.R.) is a borough and corporate town with an interesting history (12 m. W. of Northampton), standing on some of the highest ground in the county, 804 feet above sea-level. The etymology of its name is a vexed question, but it is at least very certain that its derivation from a Danish stronghold, as embodied in the town seal, is altogether apocryphal. It is written Daventre in Domesday and by Camden and Bridges, and the fashion of calling it Danetree is comparatively modern and never of popular usage. The church of the Holy Cross, which crowns the hill, is a singularly plain edifice, built in the worst possible period (1752) of the so-called Classic style.

The town was the scene of one or two sharp skirmishes during the Civil War, and King Charles, just before Naseby, stayed here for six days, one of which he spent in a stag-hunt in Fawsley Park. The one faint struggle against his son's restoration was made here by General

Lambert, but his men would not fight, and he was taken prisoner at Staverton by Colonel Ingoldsby.

In the immediate neighbourhood there is much to attract the antiquary and tourist. Overlooking the town is Borough Hill, from which there is a far-reaching view, taking in on one side Naseby and Holdenby, and on the other the spires of Coventry. The entrenchments, although much injured, are still extensive. At first, a hill fort of the Britons, it has even been held to be the entrenchment within which the Iceni and confederate tribes resisted the attack of Ostorius (A.D. 51). The Romans made of it one of their important stations, and the camp was perhaps the largest in England, having had a circumference of more than $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

Close to the town, and forming a picturesque adjunct to the landscape, is the reservoir of the Grand Junction Canal Company, which covers 117 acres. The staple trade is that of shoemaking, more than 700 hands being employed. The population in 1901 was 3780.

DESBOROUGH, 6 m. N.W. of Kettering, with a station on the M.R., is an increasing town, with extensive manufactories of boots and stays. It retains many quaint old buildings, but most of the houses are modern. The church of St Giles, chiefly E.E., is a very fine building, occupying a commanding site, with a fine tower and spire, and the interior is imposing, from the width of the aisles and transept. There are some mural monuments to the Poulton family.

Dingley, about 3 m. E. of Market Har-

borough (M. and L. & N.W.R.), is the first of six interesting villages met with on the road from Market Harborough to Rockingham. The road runs along the ridge of the hills which form the southern boundary of the valley of the Welland.

Dingley Hall, a very picturesque old house, the seat of Viscount Downe (not shown, but exterior may be inspected), is built upon the site of the Preceptory of the Knights Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem. There are curious inscriptions on the porch and on the great gateway of the old wing. The Dingley preceptory was as early as the reign of Stephen. In addition to preceptories, the Order of St John also had a number of smaller possessions called "camera," which were administered by a bailiff. These were at Harrington, Blakesley and Guilsborough.

Duddington is a small village, one of the prettiest in the county, on the Welland, 3 miles S.E. of Ketton (M.R.). The river is crossed by an old four-arched bridge, and, with the adjoining mill, has frequently been painted by artists. There are some very nice old houses with thatched roofs in the village, dating from Jacobean days. The church of St Mary Magdalen has two fine Norm. arches on the N. side of the nave, and some Norm. windows in the tower, which is on the S. side of the chancel, and is surmounted by a small pyramidal spire.

Duston (2 miles N.W. of Northampton) stands on high ground just off the main road to Daventry, and overlooking Northampton, of which there is a fine view. During the last

half century its ironstone quarries have been largely worked, and have proved a happy hunting ground to the antiquary. Continued finds of Roman coins and pottery, and latterly an Anglo-Saxon cemetery, with many specimens of fibulæ, spear-heads, etc., have been made. Many of these are in the Northampton Museum. Among the latest finds is the highly interesting one of some links of a Roman lorica, associated with a leaden coffin. St James's monastery for black canons of the Order of St Augustine, founded at the beginning of the 12th cent. by William Peverill, a natural son of William the Conqueror, formerly stood in the parish, close to St James's end, but only slight traces of it remain. The church of St Luke is one of the few cross churches in the county. The S. door is Norm., and some of the naves and capitals have grotesque figures of musicians.

Dodford (L.N.W., 1½ m. from Weedon Station) is a delightful rural village, with a picturesque stream running through it. The church (B. V. Mary) is principally Early Eng., and is full of monuments of departed worthies. In the N. chapel is the beautiful effigy, the most interesting in the county, of Sir Robert de Keynes (d. 1305), in Purbeck marble, and finely preserved. To the E. of it lies the effigy of Sir John Cressy (d. 1444). The Latin inscription, giving details of his life, is a most interesting one. In the N. wall, beneath a Dec. arch, is the wooden figure of a female, and another near it in stone (with De Keynes), and there is a curious

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EARLS BARTON CHURCH

wall painting on the wall near, and several good 15th-cent. brasses.

Earls Barton is a village of some size, pleasantly situated on the Nene, 6½ miles N.E. of Northampton, taking its name from the Earls of Huntingdon, who were formerly lords of the manor. In the Saxon tower of the church of All Saints is found one of the chief of the many ecclesiological treasures of the district. The church stands well on high ground, and the churchyard is surrounded on the N. side by a deep fosse. The tower of four stages is of 11th-cent. workmanship, and is remarkably characteristic in its sombre and simple strength. Its stone banding is in imitation of woodwork, and the rough stone, of oolitic origin, covered with plaster in places, is similar to the famous Barnack stone. The openings for light are rather curious, as being cross-shaped. Good work of the period is seen in the W. door and in the rounded arches, triangles of stone, and the rows of balustred lights under the battlements, these last being a later addition. The model for this style of building was Roman (Lombardian and Tuscan), and began to be generally adopted and followed in this country as early as the 7th cent.

Both from its position and design the tower was evidently used as a place of safety. There is a fine view from the top, taking in a wide stretch of the Nene valley, with Castle Ashby and the churches of Grendon, Bozeat, and Easton Maudit in the distance. The nave, aisles, and chancel contain Norm., E.E., and Dec. work.

In the long narrow chancel there is a piscina, and the place for the sedilia is occupied by a window. The Norm. arcade with zigzag moulding still remains. The inner door of the porch is Norm. with the bird's-beak ornament. In the vestry, some of the old corbel heads removed from the chancel at its restoration have been placed as supports to the roof. A considerable amount of boot-and-shoe making is done by operators at their homes in the village.

East Carlton, about 7 m. from Harborough and 4 m. from Rockingham Station (L. & N.W.R.), is a small, scattered village, consisting of good model cottages and substantial farm-houses. The church of St Peter is disappointing, the present building dating from 1778. The short transept and chancel appear to be the only parts of the original church which were retained. The nave has a barren appearance. In the S. arm of the transept are some handsome ornaments to the Palmer family, one of whom, Sir Geoffrey Palmer, was an eminent lawyer, and was in trouble on account of his loyalty to Charles I., but at the Restoration he was made a baronet. This family have, for many generations, been lords of this manor.

Carlton Hall (not shown) stands E. of the church, in a small, but exceedingly well-timbered park. It was rebuilt in 1870, in the style of a French château. A glimpse of this handsome mansion is obtained through the entrance near the church, and the pedestrian might enter by this gate, follow the road to the right (thus

obtaining a nearer view of the house, and of the fine herd of deer with which the park is stocked), and come out by the upper gate upon the Rockingham road.

Etton, a little secluded village 7 m. N.W. of Peterborough, is about half-a-mile to the N.E. of Helpston station. Its church of St Stephen has some Norm. portions, but the chief interest of the place is the old manor house, called Woodcroft Castle, which stands in a lonely spot, just off the road—little more than a cart-track—and hidden away behind some sombre-looking yews. The entrance front was flanked at each end by a circular tower, one of which is still standing at the angle where the two wings of the house meet, and is still washed by the moat. The inside of the house—now a farm—has been completely modernised. It dates, in all probability, from the latter part of the 12th cent. It was built, no doubt, at the time when John de Caleto, who came from Caux in 1249, was Abbot of Peterborough, and either he or his Norman architect, who built the Infirmary Chapel at Peterborough, may be supposed to have been concerned in its erection.

It was the scene of a tragic episode during the Civil War, when its little garrison under Dr Michael Hudson, rector of King's Cliffe and a chaplain of Charles I., resisted the Parliamentarians in 1648. He was savagely butchered after the garrison had capitulated. Sir Walter Scott took him as the model for Dr Rochecliffe in "Woodstock."

Easton Maudit (L.N.W., 3 m. from Castle Ashby Station) is a secluded village 11 m. from Northampton. It possesses a most interesting church (SS. Paul and Peter) of the early Dec. period, with a graceful spire. The interior, which was carefully restored, in 1860, by the Marquis of Northampton, is remarkably fine, the tiling being especially worthy of notice. The tower and spire are connected by flying buttresses.

In the chancel are preserved the monumental inscriptions of three children of Dr Thomas Percy, author of the "Reliques of Ancient Poetry," who was rector here between 1753 and 1782, and which he compiled here.

In the chapel at the end of the N. aisle are several elaborate monuments of the Yelverton family, Sir Christopher Elizabeth, Judge and Speaker (d. 1612), and his wife, Mary Catesby. At his side is the more imposing memorial of his son Henry (d. 1629) and his wife, supported by two bedesmen in black gowns and white beards. There are slabs and achievements for Longuevilles and Lord Grey of Ruthen (d. 1643), and a memorial to Morton, Bishop of Durham, driven from his see by the Civil War.

Easton Neston (L.N.W.) is a parish adjoining Towcester (1 m.) without a village, surrounded by a fine park.

The fine square house has some interesting historical associations. Early in the 16th cent. it belonged to Sir Richard Empson, the unpopular favourite of Henry VII., and after his death to the Fermor family. Will Sommers, the

celebrated jester to Henry VIII., had acted in the same capacity to a Richard Fermor, who was imprisoned for denying the king's supremacy, and was ultimately restored to his possessions at the jester's intercession.

It was here that James I. met Anne of Denmark on her first arrival in England. It contains some fine pictures, etc.

The church (B.V. Mary), Perp., contains some fine monuments and brasses to the Fermors.

Ecton (L.N.W., Billing Road Station, 2 m.), 5 m. from Northampton, is an important village, interesting as having been the home of the Franklin family for many generations. They possessed here a small estate of some thirty acres, and in addition the trade of a smith was always practised in the family. The father of the celebrated Dr Benjamin Franklin, Josias, for the purpose of more freedom in his religion, emigrated to New England in 1682, where the future philosopher and patriot was born four-and-twenty years later.

The church (St Mary Magdalen) does not possess much of interest. Some Saxon burials and coins of Ethelred were disinterred near Eden House in 1762.

Edgcott (L.N.W.), 6 m. from Banbury, consists of a few scattered houses with a church dedicated to St James, which has some noteworthy Elizabethan monuments to the Chauncey family.

It was the scene of a fierce battle in

1469 between the Yorkists and an insurgent force.

In the old Tudor House Charles I. rested the night before Edgehill, and the king's bed is still preserved in the present beautifully-built home.

Evenley (L.N.W.), 1 m. from Brackley Station, is a pretty village encircling an extensive green. In the adjoining Hall the Levinz family were settled in the 17th and 18th cents. Sir Cresswell Levinz, b. 1627, was a celebrated Judge and the author of several legal works. Another of the family, Babtista (d. 1692), was Bishop of Sodor and Man.

Everdon is a fair-sized village, 3 m. S.W. of Weedon. St Mary's Church has a beautiful Dec. S. porch and doorway. A Benedictine house attached to the Abbey of Bernay in Normandy was founded here at the beginning of the 13th cent. It stood at the E. end of the village. The church is exceptionally large and fine for an ordinary village. It was restored in 1888.

Eydon, a village 3 m. S.E. of Byfield, stands on high ground and has some old houses and many fine trees. Under some large elms by the church the old stocks are still to be seen; and, as was usual, there was a cross in the churchyard, on the old base of which a new shaft has been placed. The church of St Nicholas has been practically rebuilt, but retains several old portions, chiefly Trans. Norm., and a Dec. arcade and N. aisle. There is a narrow

clerestory containing no windows, which is rather unusual. The font (engraved in Baker) is interesting, and is late 12th cent. The basin is circular, with an ornamental rim and a series of narrow arched compartments below it. The base and shaft are octangular and of later date. One of the largest of the five bells is dated 1603. The 14th-cent. tower is a very good piece of masonry, rather low in proportion. It is in two main divisions instead of the usual three. The effigy of a female, of light-coloured freestone and much damaged, is now under an arch in the vestry. It is evidently of the 14th cent., and represents the wife of Sir Richard Wale, lord of the manor in Edward II.'s day. Eydon Hall, the seat of Viscount Valentia, is a good specimen of an 18th-cent. house, with pretty gardens laid out after the French manner.

Fawsley (Great Central), 2 m. from Charwelton, is interesting from its stately manor house and the picturesque park which surrounds it, one of the most entrancing spots, both to the antiquary and artist, that Northamptonshire can show. The hall, the home of the Knightleys for nearly five centuries, stands in a delightful situation with two fine sheets of water in the foreground. Parts of the house date from the early part of the 15th cent., but its most prominent feature, the great hall with its oriel window, is nearly a century later. Above this, in a small chamber, were printed some of the "Mar-Prelate Tracts," which

brought so heavy a punishment on the owners of Fawsley for their connivance. There are some interesting family portraits, and one of Charles XII. of Sweden.

The church (St Mary the Virgin) is one great mausoleum of the Knightleys, monuments and brasses filling every corner. There have been several notabilities among its vicars. The best known was John Dod, the Puritan. John Wilkins, afterwards Bishop of Chester, wrote his "Discovery of a New World in the Moon" here (1638). There are charming walks through the park and woods to Badby—passing by the picturesque ruin of the old Dower House of the Knightleys, which was last tenanted in 1704.

Faxton (L.N.W., 2½ m. from Lamport Station), a chapelry, is a sequestered roadless hamlet, the approach to which is over rolling pastures. It has a most primitive church (St Dennis) in which is a fine monument to Judge Nichols (d. 1616), who died while on circuit at Kendal. The almshouses erected in 1716 have been long untenanted and desolate.

Lamport Hall, the seat of the Ishams, is within 2 m. The modern church (All Saints) has many memorials of the family.

Finshade, a tiny village on the road between Kettering and Stanford, is 3 m. East of King's Cliffe. The house, called the Abbey, stands on the site of the priory founded by Richard Engayne at the beginning of the 13th cent., and portions of the original walls were in-

FAWSLEY—THE DOWER HOUSE

corporated when it was modernised into an Italian-looking structure in 1856. At an earlier time portions of Fotheringhay Castle were brought here. The priory, dedicated to St. Mary (and called the church of St Mary de Castle Hymel, after a castle of that name which was demolished in the early part of John's reign), was served by Austin Canons, of whom there were seven at the Dissolution, the prior, Thomas Lutfenham, receiving a pension of 10 marks. The site was given to John, Lord Russell, from whom it passed to Robert Kirkham, who converted the buildings into a dwelling.

FINEDON (Midland) is a large industrial village, or rather town, of between 4000 and 5000 inhabitants, 3 m. from Wellingborough.

The church, dedicated to the B. Virgin, is one of the finest in the district, and is surrounded by yew trees and hollies which grow in rich luxuriance.

It is throughout E. Dec. (beginning of the 14th cent.), except the beautiful tower and spire, which are somewhat later in style. It has across the nave a strainer arch. Across the chancel arch stretches a low stone screen, the central doorway arch of which has disappeared. There is a curious Norm. font with a sculpture of the Annunciation. Above the S. porch is a parvise chamber in which is kept a library formed by Sir John English Dolben in the 18th cent.

Floore (from the Latin *Flora*) is a village of some size on the Northampton and Daventry road, 1 m. E. of Weedon Station. The church

of All Saints is, in the main, E.E. In the chancel is an aumbry which retains, on its door, the old iron-work, and on the floor are several brasses, one to Henry Mitchel (1501) having a portion of a canopy on which is a representation of the Crucifixion. The stairs which led to the rood loft are in an angle of the chancel arch. The old font, after having served as a cattle trough, was brought back from the church at Dodford and remounted on its present base.

Fotheringhay (L.N.W.), 2 m. from Elton Station, four m. from Oundle, is a village on the river Nene, with many signs of its former importance. From early times it has been bound up with the fortunes of royalty, and it is curious to note how many of those connected with it came to violent ends. Built originally by Simon de Liz, it was held by the luckless Balliols, and then by that Countess of Pembroke whose husband fell in a tournament on her bridal day. Edward III.'s son Edmund rebuilt the castle, and was buried in its church after his death at Agincourt. It passed to his son Richard, who was beheaded by Henry V. His son, Duke of York, was slain at Wakefield with his son Rutland, murdered by the inhuman Clifford. Edward IV. often stayed at Fotheringhay, and Richard III. was born here. The last and greatest tragedy enacted within its walls was that of Mary Stuart, who was executed in the great hall of its castle, 8th February 1587.

Popular tradition credits James I. with having

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FOTHERINGHAY CHURCH

decreed its demolition in order to efface all trace of his mother's fate, but the truth is that it fell into ruins through its then owner's disinclination to face the expense of its restoration.

Now nothing remains to mark the scene of so many varied scenes in our history but the grass-grown mound in which it stood, with the peaceful river winding at its feet. In Conington Church there is a finely carved abbot's chair, said to have been that provided for the Queen of Scots on the scaffold, and on which she sat at the reading of her death-warrant. The Talbot Inn, Oundle, is credited with possessing the old oak staircase and the great window of the banqueting-hall.

The glory of the village is its parish church (B.V.M. and All Saints). It has a striking exterior, with a square tower supporting an octagonal lantern, and pinnacles rising from the battlements of the aisle, and flying buttresses supporting the clerestories. Though only a fragment of a great idea—part of the old collegiate church, the chancel and cloisters of which were destroyed in Edward II.'s time—it is a fine specimen of Perp. It has the original pulpit with the badge of the boar (Richard III.), and the monuments erected by Queen Elizabeth to the Dukes of York. The contract for the building of this church is given in Parker's "Glossary."

Most of the houses in the village are of stone, and towards the castle are the Old and New Inns, the former being now divided into

small tenements. The New Inn retains much of its old look. It has a fine Gothic archway, decorated with roses, quatrefoils, and armorial bearings of the York family, and is an excellent example of the domestic architecture of the period.

Gayton, one and a half miles west of Blisworth, is a pretty village on high ground and with an interesting church (St Mary the Virgin), E.E. Dec., containing some good monuments. Between the chancel and the side chapel is the wooden crossed-leg effigy surmounting an altar tomb with panelled and canopied sides, to Sir Philip de Gayton, 1310, who may have been one of those who followed Edward I. on his Crusade. It has been "restored." Under an arch is the effigy of Sir Philip's wife, Scholastica de Gayton, living 1284. The loose gown and mantle are excellent examples of the dress of the period, and the figure bears great resemblance to those on the Eleanor Cross at Hardingtone. The freestone effigy of a child, Mabila, daughter of Thomas de Murdak (1310) and Juliana, daughter of Philip de Gayton, was found buried into the outside east wall. At the north end of the village is the fine manor house, built in the form of a cross, by Francis Tanfield, in the latter half of the 16th cent. One of the signatories to the Act of Uniformity of Elizabeth's reign, he lies buried in the church under an incised sepulchral slab, one of the very few in the county.

GEDDINGTON (M.R.), 3 m. from Ket-

tering, and 2½ from Geddington Station, has great attractions for the archæologist. Just beyond the 13th cent. bridge is the Eleanor Cross, the most elegant of the three crosses which now remain of the fifteen originally erected by Edward I., at the different places where the body of his queen rested for a night on the way from Harby to its place of interment in Westminster Abbey. It has had the good fortune to escape restoration. The cross is nearly 40 feet high, is triangular in form, and consists of three storeys, the first of which is solid, each face being divided into four panels, entirely covered with roses, carved with great delicacy. Each of the upper panels carries a shield with the arms of England, Castile, Leon, and Ponthieu. The second storey has its angles corresponding with the middle of each side of the lower storey. From each angle, again, rises an elegant pillar, supporting a canopy, within which a statue of the queen is placed. The whole is capped with a cluster of graceful pinnacles, finials, and angular pillars, all ornamented with oak leaves and a large flower resembling the fleur-de-lis.

The church of St Mary Magdalene has a fine tower and spire of the late Dec. period. Under the fine tower arch are the remains of two handsome screens. The lower was one of two which formerly separated the chantry E. of the S. aisle. The upper screen is part of one placed by Maurice Tresham under the chancel arch. It was removed at the Restoration.

The door in the wall of the N. aisle was for the use of the king and followers when residing in the palace, which stood in a field N. of the church. At the end of the N. aisle is a piscina, and another is in the same wall at the end of the modern vestry, which occupies part of the site of the old Maydwell Chapel. The press in the vestry is formed of some of the old pews, removed at the Restoration. The date is 1602, which, Dr Hook says, is the earliest known pew in England. The Dec. chancel is very fine. The inscription round the base moulding of the wall of the sanctuary was originally on the front edge of the steps. It reads: "Williamus Glovere de Geytyngton capellanus fecit scabella ejus are et Pavimentare istus cancellum ad honorem Dei et Beate Marie qui obit infesto corpore Christi anno Domini MCCCLXIX. Cujus anime propicietur Deus. Amen."

The reredos is old, and was probably filled with figures of the Saviour and His Apostles. The paintings now seen in the niches are modern. In the chantry at the E. end of S. aisle is the recumbent figure of a priest holding a book and chalice. The Norm. pillars and arches between the nave and N. aisle are very massive, and over these arches, in the N. aisle, is a Saxon arcade. The massive bases of the tower arch, and of the pillars of the E.E. arcade, are Saxon. There is a small brass on the floor near the organ. It represents a man with a knife in his girdle, and a woman,

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GEDDINGTON--THE CROSS

with the Tresham "Trefoil," under the man's feet. The figures represent Henry Jarman (*circa* 1480), supposed to have been the king's cook, and his wife. There is an ancient sundial (or mason's Mark) on the middle buttress of the S. wall. Traces of the foundations of the Royal Palace (a favourite resort of the Plantagenet kings) are visible in the field N. of the church.

In the village are several good old houses. Sir Robert Dallington was a poor boy of Geddington, who, going to London about the beginning of the 17th cent., became wealthy, was knighted, and bequeathed a sum of money to purchase loaves, which are still distributed on Sunday in accordance with the regulations to be seen near the church door.

Glendon, 2 m. W. of Rothwell, has neither church nor village, but consists of a few widely scattered farmhouses and cottages with a population of about 70. Glendon Hall is a fine mansion in a picturesque park. The porch, brought from the Pytchley Hunt Club, is by Inigo Jones. The house contains some good pictures, notably a Holbein of Katherine Parr, and a Rubens. There is also some of the old glass from the church of St Helen, which was the private chapel before its demolition. The land is well timbered and rich in ironstone. The groups of statuary in the grounds came from the gardens of Boughton.

Glinton (G.N., 1 m. from Peakirk Station) is a village 3 m. from Peterborough. The church

is dedicated either to St Benedict or, according to some writers, St Thomas of Canterbury, and has a beautiful octagonal spire, one of the finest in the county. The arch is mainly late Dec., the tower and spire being later. It has a Norm. font, and a most interesting effigy, much damaged, of a forester (1325 *circa*) carrying a horn slung from a baudric, a sheaf of arrows, and a "mighty bow"; as Chaucer puts it:—

> "An horn he bare, the baudric was of green,
> A forester was he soothly, as I guess."

Grafton Regis (L.N.W.), the ancient seat of the Woodville or Wydville family, is a village 3 m. from Roade Station.

The house in which Edward IV. was married to Elizabeth Woodville stood close to the village, but was plundered and burnt by the Parliamentarians in 1643. Parts of it still exist in the present mansion. The church (St Mary) has some fine monuments, among them an encased alabaster slab to Sir John Woodville and a graceful monument to the Countess of Euston.

Green's Norton (L.N.W., 2 m. from Towcester Station) is a village so called from its ancient lords, the Greenes. Catherine Parr, the last wife of Henry VIII., was born here.

The church (St Bartholomew) was formerly celebrated for its series of monuments to the Greene family, but they were removed in the early part of the last century when the church was "beautified." Their destruction is one of the saddest passages of county history.

They are fully described in Hartshorne's "Recumbent Effigies." Luffield Priory, a Benedictine house, suppressed in the seventh Henry's time, stood in this parish.

GRAFTON UNDERWOOD is about 2 m. from Cranford Station (M.R.) and 4 from Kettering. The stream flowing down the centre of the village with here and there a bridge crossing it, gives a pleasing touch of rusticity to the street. The church of St James the Great has traces of all styles from Norm. to Perp. Observe the remains of the lower part of the rood screen and the unusual size of the porch. In the chantry chapel E. of the N. aisle is a table monument with a figure of a kneeling woman. This is to the memory of Lady Gertrude Fitzpatrick, daughter of the Earl of Upper Ossory, and on the wall of this same chapel is a good bas-relief by Westmacott to the memory of Lady Anne Fitzpatrick. In the chancel is another excellent bas-relief by Westmacott to the memory of Richard Lord Gowran and others of the family. The E. window is a memorial to John Fitzpatrick, Lord Castletown. All these were connected with the ancestry of Lord Lyveden of Farmingwoods.

GRETTON (M.R.), a corruption of great town, a fair-sized village on the Rutland border, is 12 m. N. of Kettering. The old stocks and whipping-post are on the village green. It is one of the most charming villages in the county. The church of St James has traces of Norm. work, but is, in the main, late Perp. It underwent extensive restoration in 1894, and in the

chancel are several Hatton monuments. Like Nassington, it was once attached to Lincoln.

In the W. corner of Deene Park (Countess of Cardigan) stands a memorable ruin, Kirby House, with its Weldon stone defying the ravages of wind and weather. It is a melancholy spectacle, but from its position, hedged in with thick trees (a relic of the great Rockingham Forest), it is full of charm even in its desolation. The house was built by John Thorpe, the architect of Burghley, and from the plan preserved in the Soane museum the date is seen to be 1570, when the first stone was laid. Sir Christopher Hatton acquired it before it was finished at the time when he was building Holdentry; Inigo Jones was employed to make extensive alterations in 1638-40. From the portions which remain, it must have been a splendid dwelling-house, and a beautiful specimen of Renaissance work, surpassing in variety of detail and ornamentation Rushton and Burghley, two other characteristic pieces of domestic architecture. Special features of the exterior are the Italian loggia on the N. side of the court; while the gable over the porch in the courtyard is unique in England. One of the principal rooms on the ground floor is practically the only part which is even now sheltered with a roof, and still keeps its fine projecting oriel window. The house belongs to the present representative of the family, the Earl of Winchilsea. It was inhabited up to 1820. A few overgrown shrubs are all the remaining vestige of the beautiful gardens of which Evelyn and Bridges wrote.

KIRBY HALL

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Guilsborough (L.N.W., 4 m. from Brixworth Station) is a large village standing on high ground with fine views, 9 m. from Northampton.

The church (St Etheldreda the Virgin) has an E.E. tower and a Dec. broach spire.

The free Grammar School, founded in 1688, is a picturesque building. It has a remarkable carved oak staircase. There is an earthwork of doubtful origin called the Burroughs, now mostly destroyed.

Haddon, East, some 5 m. to the S.E. ($1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Althorp Park Station), stands in pleasantly wooded country, and has an interesting font in its church of St Mary, which, originally Norm., sustained much change in the Dec. and Perp. periods. The edge of the circular basin of the font is roughly carved with a figure holding what appear to be winged serpents.

Haddon, West, a large village on the road from Northampton to Rugby, is $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. N.E. of Kilsby and Crick Station. The church of All Saints, a Dec. structure, which underwent considerable alteration in the Perp. period, contains a most interesting E.E. font, the basin being hollowed out of a square block of stone. There are sculptured heads at the corners, and between them a band of sculpture representing incidents from the life of our Lord.

Hannington (L.N.W., 5 m. from Lamport) is a village 8 m. from Northampton. It has a most interesting E.E. church with unusual details. Its striking feature is the single arcade, which divides the nave into two and rests against the

wall above the chancel arch. Portions of the old chancel screen remain, and a fine Dec. pulpit.

Harleston, 2 m. S.E. of Althorp Park Station, is a straggling picturesque village on the Rugby Road, scattered over a large area among the hills and dales caused by the stone quarries, which were extensively worked in the old days. It has a manor house surrounded by a park with a fine sheet of water. The church built by a Richard de Hette, is in a secluded situation and has an E.E. tower with Dec. nave, N. and S. aisles, chancel, and porch. The three sedilia on the S. side of the chancel and the piscina and bracket should be noticed. There is a small crypt under the chancel, and high up over the tower arch an interesting example of the old minstrels' gallery. An interesting record of the church exists in the MS. (in the British Museum) written by Henry de Bray, a lord of the manor, who assisted in the rebuilding of the church (with the exception of the tower) between 1320 and 1325.

HARPOLE (L.N.W.), four m. W. of Northampton, or the same distance N.E. of Weedon Station, a large village to the N. of the Daventry road. It has good specimens of 16th and 17th-cent. houses. The church of All Saints is a strange mixture of styles. The priest's door and south door into the church are pure Norman while the chancel arch is Pointed. Upon Norman engaged shafts there are several E.E. details, while nearly all the windows are of

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AT HARRINGWORTH

Perp. work. The cylindrical font is richly covered with Norman sculpture. In 1846 a Roman villa was discovered near the Halfway House, and a small part uncovered. The principal discovery was a portion of a mosaic floor which may have measured twelve by eighteen feet when perfect. The pattern was a conventional one in red, white, buff, and black. Whellan records the discovery to the north of the village of another extensive villa with a floor of rough unornamented tessellation.

Harrington, a small village 3 m. E. of Kelmarsh Station, has an E.E. church (SS. Peter and Paul) with portions of an old screen and a modern tower. The village gives the title of Earl and Baron to a branch of the Stanhope family.

Harringworth is a small village, pleasantly situated on the Welland, by the Rutland border, ½ m. from Seaton (N.W.R.) and 10 to the N. of Oundle. The old cross in the centre of the village is in good preservation, and the manor house contains some portions of the old house of the Zouches, who held the lordship in the 13th cent., and take the title of Baron from this place.

The church of St John the Baptist (Dec.) has a brass to a priest, Wm. Garner, 1680; and one to another, Matthew Palmer, 1752, who attained to the age of 110.

Harrowden, Great (M.R.), is a village 2 m. from Wellingborough Station. The church (All Saints) is in great part a modern restora-

tion. There are two brasses in the chancel, one of a knight in armour, William de Harweden (1433), and of his widow. The De Vaux family were settled here early in the 16th cent. and they were implicated in the Gunpowder Plot.

Hellidon is a village on the Warwickshire border, 4 m. N. of Byfield Station, full of picturesque "bits." It has a small Dec. church (St John the Baptist), to which a new N. aisle was added about 1870. A pool, the source of the Leam, is near the E. end of the village.

HELMDON is a large village with one long and straggling street, 4½ m. N. of Brackley. Its church (St Mary Magdalen), in the main late Dec., is not of great interest. There are a single sedilia and a piscina in the chancel, and another piscina, now in the N. aisle, was found under the floor at the time of the restoration of the church in 1875. There were several quarries, providing a useful kind of freestone, which were worked extensively in olden days. The churchyard has a magnificent old yew tree.

Helpston (Midland Station) is a village 7 m. from Peterborough, the birthplace of the Northamptonshire poet, John Clare (see BIOGRAPHY), who was born here in 1793. The village street is picturesque, with the ancient cross in the centre; the monument to its honoured bard, erected in 1869 hard by, and the low spire of the church rising above all. The church is dedicated to St Botolph, an early saint, and

traces of Saxon work were found when the tower was rebuilt in 1865.

There is a defaced brass to Roger de Hegham, who died between 1297 and 1310.

A Roman pavement was found here and relaid in the church.

Hemington (L.N.W., 4 m. from Barnwell Station) is a village 4½ m. from Oundle. Its church (SS. Peter and Paul) has been almost entirely rebuilt in modern times, only the tower being original. Of greater interest are the magnificent oak stalls which either came from Fotheringhay Church or its Castle chapel. The carving, both on them and on the *Miserere*, is exceedingly fine.

HIGHAM FERRERS (M.R. and N.W.R.), 16 m. N.E. of Northampton (in Domesday, Hecham), takes its additional name from the Ferrers who held the lordship in King John's time. It has had a mayor and corporation almost from Norman times, and returned a member to Parliament until the first Reform Bills.

Its one long straight street, bordered by gray houses, is not wanting in picturesqueness, and it possesses a remarkable group of ecclesiastical buildings that impart to it a delightful old-world appearance.

It is to Archbishop Chichele, a son of the soil, that Higham is indebted for its architectural glories—the church, school, and Bedehouse, with its ruined cross and college.

The church (dedicated to the Blessed Virgin) is one of the finest in the county, and its details are of special interest. A striking view of it is

obtained on entering the churchyard from the main street, surrounded by the old school and Bedehouse. Its ground plan is unusual, as it has a second nave and chancel with three ranges of piers, the two naves being of equal width. Perhaps the magnificent E.E. portal is the most attractive feature. It has a massive double entrance, divided by a shaft set within a shallow porch. Above is a tympanum, containing ten circular compartments, filled with bas-reliefs from the New Testament, which, with the rich diaper-work between them, were originally painted. The interior presents a curious intermixture of the E.E. and Dec. styles, most of the windows and two ranges of the nave, piers, and clerestories, being of the latter period, while the fine tower arch and the S. nave piers with a beautiful priest's door are E.E. The upper part of the tower and spire fell early in the 17th cent., and were rebuilt in 1632, fortunately strictly on the lines of the original structure. The stalls in the chancel date back to Archbishop Chichele's time, and his head, with the arms of Canterbury impaled with his own, appear among the carvings. Some of the still earlier tiles are very curious in their designs. A tomb of great beauty under the arch dividing the chancel from the lady chapel, is supposed, from the royal arms upon it, to have been prepared for that of an Earl of Lancaster, possibly John of Gaunt. The helm, which formerly hung over it, has disappeared. The brasses are of particular interest. On the floor

HIGHAM FERRERS CHURCH

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of the chancel is one in the form of a Latin cross to the memory of Thomas and Agnes Chichele, the parents of the Archbishop (1400), and another to William Chichele (d. 1425) and Beatrice his wife, but the greater part of the inscription has disappeared. There are also brasses to Laurence St Maur, rector from 1289 to 1337, in his priest's vestments, and to Henry Denton, chaplain of Chelveston (a neighbouring village), 1498, and several others to civilians.

The school-house and bedehouse, both in the churchyard, are good specimens of Perp. work. On the way towards the station are passed the remains of Archbishop Chichele's college, but there is little to reward the explorer except the gateway facing the main street with three tenantless niches above it, and some square-headed windows. The college was founded in 1422, and was for eight secular canons, four clerks, and six choristers. Henry V. granted the suppressed priory of West Mersey, Essex, as an endowment, together with three acres of land in the town. The priory had been a cell of the Abbey of St Ouen. The endowments were considerably increased in 1434-35. The college was surrendered to Henry VIII. in 1542. Before the founding of Chichele's college and bedehouse there had been a hospital dedicated to St James, the only record of it being in Bridges, who mentions two presentations to the membership. The interior buildings have been modernised into dwellings and store-houses. Close to the

L.N.W. station is a fine 13th-cent. bridge with ribbed arches.

HOLDENBY, or Holmby (pronounced Homeby), is a village 1½ m. N.E. of Althorp Park Station, of more than usual interest from its historical associations. It was an early Saxon settlement, and in 1864 a cemetery was discovered, when urns and fibulæ came to light.

In the 16th cent. the manor came into the possession of the Hattons, and the gallant figure of the favourite of Elizabeth, Sir Christopher Hatton, her whilom Chancellor, is indissolubly connected with the stately mansion he built here. It was a favourite resort both of James I. and his son, who paid it many a visit. Charles passed nearly four months here in the custody of the Parliament, from the 15th February to the 3rd of June, 1647, living in almost royal state and holding a levee of his Royalist adherents on his arrival. The episode of his removal by Cornet Joyce is historical, and forms one of the most famous vicissitudes in Charles's sad life. The Long Walk, on which the troubled king paced rapidly to and fro, attended by the aged Earl of Pembroke, crowns the terraces and passes across the plateau under the south façade of the great house of which only the north side of the second quadrangle now remains, altered, modernised, and added to. He pulled down the old manor house, and removed the village to the outside of the park and grounds he laid out. Hence the half mile which now separate village and church.

THE ARCHES AT HOLDENBY

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Evelyn, in 1675, found it in ruins, "a stately, solemn, pleasing view." The last royal visit paid to it was when our present king, when Prince of Wales, attended a meet of the Pytchley there in 1863, and was acclaimed by more than 2000 horsemen.

The church of All Saints (Early Dec.) was well restored in 1868, save that the plaster was foolishly stripped off the walls and the rubble housework pointed. The chancel was rebuilt in 1843. There are a few brass inscriptions to the members of the Hatton family, one the elder brother of the famous chancellor, and an incised slab to William de Haldenby and his wife. The great grandfather of Sir Christopher Hatton married the heiress of the De Holdenbys. In the churchyard are memorials of the Rev. C. H. Hartshorne and members of his family. The chancel screen is an interesting and historic work, evidently brought from the hall of Holdenby House. Its domestic character is obvious; it is mentioned by Bridges, who collected his facts about 1720, as then dividing the chancel from the church, and Baker records that it was presented to the church by Daniel Amiand, rector of Holdenby from 1691, to his death in 1730. It so happened that the domestic screen almost fitted the chancel arch, but it was necessary to cut away the responds in order to get it into its new situation. In the house it served as a close screen, dividing the chapel from the corridor or passage into which the dais end of the hall opened. It consisted of three compart-

ments, each divided by four balusters, minutely shown on John Thorpe's plan. For its ecclesiastical purpose the balusters of the central compartment were removed in order to form a gangway, which was then fitted with the existing light double doors. At the restoration of the church the carved arabesque work forming the filling in of the archway, and including two couchant lions, was very reprehensibly taken down and placed on the floor against the east wall of the south aisle. The central framework of this upper part, and portions of a clumsy square pew, with high balustradings precisely similar to those of the screen, but shortened, and doubtless removed from the house at the same time, were utilised in forming a screen and other fittings to make the tower into a vestry. The whole question of the Holdenby Screen has been thoroughly gone into by Mr J. A. Gotch and by Mr Albert Hartshorne, for many years a resident in the place, and a diligent student of its antiquities. The screen was carefully measured and drawn before its condition was prejudiced by misleading tamperings, and there is no pretence whatever for the contention that the screen is an original ecclesiastical work of Charles I.'s time and specially designed for the place it occupies but does not fit.

HOUGHTON (LITTLE), $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. S.E. of Northampton, is on the opposite bank of the Nene from Weston Favell, and, standing high, commands a pretty view all over the valley of

the river. Except for the late E.E. arcaded tower, the church of St Mary the Virgin had been rebuilt, a Dec. arch in the tower serving as the key for the design. Near the church are the moat and foundations of the old manor house of the Zouches. There was a ford across the Nene here, and near its place, close to an old mill, is Clifford Hill, a circular mound surrounded by a ditch. Leland called it a "bullewarke of warre." Several Roman coins have been found around it.

ISLIP, a pretty and very characteristic village about half a mile from Thrapston, has a small but beautiful Perp. church (St Nicholas), with a very fine spire. The present church, one of the best examples of a church of practically one style throughout, replaced an earlier Dec. building of which a portion remains most probably in the tower, which has the characteristic local feature of clasping buttresses. The general proportions of the interior, with lofty arches opening into both tower and chancel (which is unusually spacious), and the piers of the arcade, with their shafts almost free, are points worthy of notice. There are some nice old houses in the village on which the typical Northamptonshire stone chimneys, set in pairs, may be seen. Towards Thrapston the river Nene, which winds about between its reed-fringed banks and the evil, pernicious, arrow-headed weed, is crossed by a bridge. The view from this is particularly picturesque.

IRCHESTER, a good-sized village on the

Bedfordshire border, 2 m. S.E. of Wellingborough, has on its church of St Katherine one of the best of the spires for which the county is famous. Its period is Dec., octagonal its shape, with slightly projecting lights, and its proportions are particularly elegant. A few feet at the top were rebuilt in 1881. In the tower, the local custom of using different coloured stone courses is seen. Interesting features in the interior of the church are a fine E.E. priest's door, a font (possibly Saxon), an E.E. two-light window, and two Norm. piers. The restoration of the church in 1889 brought to light some curious mural paintings above the chancel, representing the final resurrection, traces of which remain. It was executed in a debased and grotesque form of art, and one of Satan's myrmidons, who was shown engaged in the task of dragging off lost souls to hell in the usual style of the Mystery play, takes refreshment from a quart pot. As it was not possible to remove the paintings to a museum no care was taken of them. They were certainly unsuitable as adornments of a church. In the vicinity of Chester House (now a farm) a Roman burial-ground was unearthed in 1874. One of the coffins, cut out of a solid block of freestone, is to be seen in a field near the house. Ironstone in considerable quantity is met with, and also traces of slag, which goes to show that the ore must have been worked here in early days.

Irthlingborough (L. N. W., Higham Ferrers Station) is a large industrial village on

the banks of the Nene, 5 m. from Wellingborough. Its church, dedicated to St Peter, must have been at one time an architectural gem, but it has suffered from over restoration. The striking detached campanile, or bell-tower, is the special feature of the church. A lofty Dec. octagon rises from the square tower, which is more domestic in type than ecclesiastical. It was, in fact, used as a dwelling in the days when there was a college here, and was divided into three storeys. The college was for six secular canons (one of whom was to be dean, and four clerks). The buildings stood between the bell-tower and the W. end of the church. In the S. choir aisle is the tomb of the founder of the college, John Peyel, and his wife, very much damaged. In the middle of the village is the shaft of the old market-cross.

Kelmarsh is a village 1 m. N.E. from its station on the L. & N. W. Ry., on the road to Market Harborough from Northampton. The long nave of its church, dedicated to the rather unfamiliar St Denis, is a feature of interest. The church is partly E.E. and partly Dec. and has a broach spire, that is, one that rises from its tower without a parapet. The church has undergone extensive and elaborate renovation.

KETTERING (M.R.), an important manufacturing town, is 13½ m. N.E. of Northampton, and best seen when approached by the Northampton road, from which a charming panoramic view is obtained of the town, and the

graceful proportions of the fine tower and spire of the church of SS. Peter and Paul are seen. The earliest portions of this church are the N. doorway under the porch, and the E. part of the chancel, which are Early Dec. (*circa* 1300). The rest is Perp. The unusual length of the chancel will be at once noticed.

The chief features of interest in this church are the noble Perp. W. tower, in which is a deeply recessed doorway (of a form to be seen in many Northampton churches of this period, but in none other so large or so richly ornamented as here); the enclosure of the arch with a square head, the fine W. window and battlemented parapet, with octagon turrets at each corner. The graceful crocketed spire is within an inch and a quarter the same height as the tower, the total height of the two being 177 ft. $5\frac{1}{4}$ in. The tower appears to have been built earlier than the nave, probably as a detached bell-tower. The N. porch is Perp., and has a parvise over it. Three canopied niches had originally images of the patron saints, and probably of the Virgin. It is very noticeable that the tower and porch are not in line with the other parts of the building; the former inclines somewhat to the N. and the porch to the W., to make the approach more direct from the market-place. The door, with its old lock on it, leading from the porch into the chancel, are curious. There are indications of a painting in distemper on the wall of the N. aisle, variously conjectured to have represented either St James

the Greater, St Christopher, or St Roche. It is now too obscure to be deciphered, but as Billing describes the figure, the colour of his garments, and his dog, the painting must have been fairly distinct in his time (1843). An aumbry and niche occupy rather an unusual position at the E. end of the N. wall. There is also an aumbry in the S. aisle. In the N. chapel, probably a chantry chapel, is preserved one of the ancient reading-desks on which were chained a Bible and the Book of Homilies. The chains remain, and to one of them the worm-eaten covers of a book are still attached. The old parish chest is in the vestry. In the N. chapel are also a niche and piscina. In the chancel is a fine triple sedilia. In the S. chapel, called "Sawyer's Aisle," are seen the stairs and doorway leading to the rood loft.

There are no monuments and but few memorial tablets in the church; the most noticeable of the latter is one in Sawyer's Aisle, to members of that family, which was rather prominent in Kettering in the 16th cent., and one of whom founded the hospital at the top of Station Road. Under the west window of the South Aisle is a newly erected metal tablet to the memory of Mr John S. Nettleship, the eminent animal painter.

In the field S. of the church is the old manor house, and close to it the new Public Library, the gift of Mr Carnegie. Notice on leaving the churchyard the old Market House on the left, and on the right the modern Corn

Exchange. In Lower Street is a house in which the first Baptist Mission to India, etc., was organised. A few quaint old buildings may still be seen in Workhouse Lane, Hazlewood Lane, and Walker's Lane. The rest of the town is essentially modern. The recent improvements of the Urban Council in widening and straightening the narrow, but picturesque, old streets, have removed most of the old and interesting buildings.

The rise of this town to its present importance is interesting. In 956 it was, with its population of about 300, granted to the Abbot of Peterborough, and continued a small agricultural village until the dissolution of the monasteries, after which it gradually rose into local importance as a market town. In 1845 the population was under 5000; since then the gradual introduction of the boot manufacture and the construction of the Midland Railway have raised it to the position of a prosperous manufacturing town with a population of about 30,000. Three eminent artists, Mr Alfred East, A.R.A., Mr T. C. Gotch, and Mr John Nettleship, the great animal painter, were born here.

KINGSCLIFFE (L.N.W. station) is a large village $7\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Oundle. The church (All Saints) is cruciform with a tower and spire. The chancel has an original roof of open woodwork.

Kingscliffe was the birthplace and residence for many years, until his death in 1761, of that

powerful theological writer, William Law, author of the "Serious Call," who lived a semi-monastic life here.

King's Sutton (G.W.), 5 m. from Banbury, is a village celebrated for its church (St Peter), which is surmounted by a graceful spire. This church, together with the neighbouring ones of Addersbury and Bloxam in Oxfordshire, were said to have been built by three brothers, and the old adage ran, "Bloxam for length, Adderbury for strength, and King's Sutton for beauty." On each side of the chancel are three Norman sedilia.

Many Roman remains have been found here, with coins of the emperors, and there exist traces of entrenchments in the parish. The picturesque manor house has some fine family portraits, and also of George II. and his son, the Prince of Wales.

KISLINGBURY (L.N.W.), 4 m. W. of Northampton, is a village of some size lying just off the Daventry road, and possesses little of interest save its church, which has a graceful tower and spire, and is a good example of Dec. work with a beautiful E. window. The principal features to note are the characteristic mouldings, particularly those of the N. door, which has been walled up, and the fine original door from the chancel into the vestry, which has two hollow mouldings with a continuous wreath of flowers. The mouldings of many of the windows are also thickly ornamented with four-leaved flowers alternating with the ball flower.

With the exception of some work to the chancel the church has escaped restoration. The rectory is an early Georgian red stone house, and a good example of its kind.

Lichborough, 2 m. W. of Cold Higham, is 3 m. N. of Blakesley Station. Its church of St Martin is partly Dec. and partly Perp., and the tower is of beautiful construction and colour. At the N. end of the nave is a tomb with an effigy to Sir John Needham (1616), the inscription recording that he was Gentleman Pensioner to Queen Elizabeth and James I. On the tablet above are eight rhyming couplets. There is a portrait of this knight in Lichborough Hall, in much the same dress, and with the staff of office, as that in which he is represented in the effigy.

A road through Farthingstone Wood leads to the parish of that name in which are some earthworks on the top of a hill known as Castle Dykes, and covering some ten or twelve acres. The high flat field was a Roman camp, and the hill part a Saxon "bush." The fact that a field to the S.W. is called Castle Yard seems to point to its being the site of a fortified house. There is a tradition that a town once stood here.

LODDINGTON, a village of some size 4 m. W. of Kettering, stands high and has some good houses, notably the handsome Elizabethan manor house. The church of St Leonard is a fine E.E. structure, the spire and tower being conspicuous a long distance away. On the

walls are memorials to the Tanfields and Syers; and the pulpit retains a relic of Puritan days in the stand for the hour-glass, as at Little Oakley.

Long Buckby is a place of considerable size, ½ m. from its station (N.W.R.), and 5 m. N.E. of Daventry. The Grand Junction Canal passes some 2 m. to the W. of the village, at which point there is a wharf; and a good deal of merchandise—malt, bricks, lime, and coal—is landed. The church of St Lawrence has undergone extensive alteration at various times. The old parts are the tower (E.E.) and the nave arcades (Dec.). One of the old bells (1624) has the inscription—

> "If at my sound you don't prepare,
> You are not inclined to come to prayer."

Lowick, in olden times Luffwick, and entered as Luhwic in Domesday, is a village prettily situated on a brook which joins the Nene, 2 m. N. of Thrapston, and contains, in the lantern of its church, and in the magnificent old Drayton House, two features of special interest. The church (St Peter) is mainly Perp. The large octagonal lantern which forms so striking a feature, rises from an embattled parapet of the tower of four stages, from the pinnacled angles of which flying buttresses spring up to meet it. Between the chancel and the N. chapel is a fine alabaster tomb of Ralph Greene and his dame Katherine (who erected it in 1419). The recumbent effigies were

originally surmounted by a canopy. The man, who was the second of the Greenes, lords of Drayton (with which Lowick went), is in armour; and on the front of his bascinet the letters IHS NAZE are engraved. The female figure is remarkable for the rich head-dress, and her hand is held by her spouse, a somewhat uncommon disposition. It was carved by Thomas Prentys and Robert Sutton of Chellaston in Derbyshire, and according to an indenture, still in existence, for the making of the monument, it cost £40, and had to be finished before the Easter of 1420. An effigy of Edward Stafford, Earl of Wiltshire (d. 1499), surmounts his altar tomb in a chapel on the south side. Very interesting lettering with a decorative leaf ornament runs round the edge of the tomb, and the heraldry on the tabard is admirably sculptured. In the S. chapel is the altar tomb, carrying brasses, of Sir Henry Greene (d. 1467), and Margaret his wife. The brass is powdered with small scrolls inscribed with the words "DA GL'IAM DEO." Some beautiful stained glass of the 14th cent. is to be found in the four N. aisle windows, the greater part of which no doubt came from a large Dec. window in the church which the Perp. one has replaced. They may be portions of two, one of which was a Jesse window. But the most easterly light of these N. aisle windows, of quite a different pattern, has an interesting figure of a knight in mail, who kneels and offers the model of a church. There is a tradition

that it represents a Sir Walter de Vere, who served in the Crusades of Richard I. The incomplete inscription running along the lower part of these windows is a bidding prayer, doubtless for some one of the Drayton family.

At the E. end of the village there are the remains of a barn, probably of the 14th cent. One of the largest oaks to be found in this country is in an adjacent field.

A little over 1 m. to the S.W. of the village lies Drayton House (the seat of Mrs Stopford Sackville, whose son, Sackville Stopford Sackville, Esq., is M.P. for the Northern Division of the county), one of the finest of the county houses, and in many ways one of the most interesting in England. Its approach through a beautifully wooded park, with fine avenues of elm and lime, compensates in a great measure for its low and secluded situation between the Forest of Rockingham and the river valley. Upon this site there has stood a residence from the days of the Saxon Oswinus, mentioned as the earliest owner in the curious book, Halstead's "Genealogies," to which reference is made later. Of the existing house, however, no portion is older than Edward I.'s time. Perhaps its chief charm is the wonderful way in which its antiquity has been preserved. Large as the house is, it gives the visitor the idea at once that it is a house that is lived in. It has passed through many phases, and has been owned, in the course of its eight centuries of existence, by many people. Its history sets

forth a curious interchange among families owing to the fact that it has descended several times to heiresses; but throughout the whole of its fascinating history it has never been sold, or even let, while its various owners have tenderly cherished its treasures and, in some notable instances, added to its beauties. In the reign of Henry II. the manor of Drayton was held by Aubrey de Vere, the first Earl of Oxford. Passing to Robert, the second son, it remained in the family until Edward III.'s time. Walter de Vere, in Richard I.'s reign, took the name of Drayton, and Sir John of this name, who held it in the latter part of Edward III.'s reign, gave it to Sir Richard Greene, Chief Justice of England, who had married Sir John's niece, Katherine. A son of this union, Henry, who appears as a character in Shakespeare's "Richard II.," a staunch supporter of that ill-fated monarch, was beheaded after the fall of Bristol Castle, and his son, in process of time, recovered it, and the family held it until Constance Greene took it to her husband, Lord Stafford, created Earl of Wiltshire by Edward IV. In this change of sides, from the red to the white emblem in the awful time of the Wars of the Roses, Drayton was saved from destruction. By an heiress again it passed to yet another family, the Mordaunts. Of these the third lord, Lewis, added a great deal to the house (the N. wing, of characteristic Renaissance work, being his), and planned the gardens. On one of the terraces

DRAYTON HOUSE — THE ENTRANCE FRONT

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there is still a quaint sun-dial bearing the Mordaunt arms. His son Henry entertained James I. and his queen at the house for three days, a large chamber on the upper floor receiving thereby the name of the king's dining-room. There are two interesting entries in the churchwardens' account-book in Lowick Church for the year 1605, the date of the visit, 2s. 2d. being paid for the ringing of the bells and 2s. 7d. expended on bread and wine for the Communion. On the most absurd and slightest of evidence this Mordaunt was thrown into the Tower at the time of the Gunpowder Plot, and died in 1608. As in earlier days, the son regained the royal favour, and was created Earl of Peterborough by Charles I. Mary, the daughter of the second Earl, who died in one of the lower rooms of the house in 1699, was twice married, her second husband being Sir John Germain. After her death Sir John Germain, who had married again, left it to Lady Betty Germain, a friend of Pope and Swift, who may be called the presiding genius of the house, and who filled it with its treasures of quaint old china and furniture, and whose descendant, through Lord George Sackville, is its present owner. A very rare volume, compiled by Robert Halstead (a pseudonym of the second Earl of Peterborough), tells the history of the family. It bears the title "Succinct Genealogies of Certain Noble and Antient Families," and was published in 1685. Twenty-five only were printed. There is a copy at Drayton.

The S. part of the house, which is seen as the approach to it is made from Thrapston, is remarkably picturesque from its two Elizabethan towers crowned with cupolas (of a later date), while to the right is seen the formal garden with its beds and alleys, and rich with all sorts of old-fashioned flowers, backed with hedges of hornbeam. The Tudor portion lies behind, in the N. part of the house, and dates from the time of Sir Simon of Drayton, the De Vere to whom Edward III. gave "licence to crenellate" his dwelling. In Elizabeth's time the Mordaunts greatly altered it, and it again underwent changes in William III.'s day. The mingling of styles, hardly anywhere incongruous, gives the house a foreign appearance and adds in no small measure to its charm. William III. stayed here in 1695, and to his visit the Italian decorations in the dining-room—the raised work on the ceiling and the vine border under the cornice—were due. The state bedroom (and dressing-room) on the ground floor, used by James I., still keeps its bed with its beautifully preserved hangings and some fine pieces of tapestry, and chairs of the period covered with the same material. In old furniture of the 18th cent. the house is particularly rich, and in odd corners and disused ante-rooms there are piles of it, ranged in order round the walls, and not stacked away in dust-covered heaps. Even in its few now uninhabited rooms there is the same air of homeliness which is such a characteristic feature of a house over which Walpole

raved. "Oh, the dear old place," he wrote to Montagu in 1763. "It is covered with portraits, crammed with old china, and not a rag in it under forty, fifty, or a thousand years old." He notices also the wonderful state of preservation in which everything was to be found, and goes on to speak of the garden, which Sir John Germain, who came over with William III., brought from Holland, and its divine mistress, Lady Betty Germain, whose receipt-book, ranging from strange and wonderful medicinal concoctions to such toothsome delicacies as apricot marmalade, is still in the house.

A long screen of Edwardian workmanship stretches in front of the quadrangle, part of which has been covered in as a spacious hall, the entrance door of the house opening directly into it. There are some fine vaulted cellars to the right of the hall. In the hall, panelled into the wall, are some good portraits, chief among which are two Knellers (William III. and James, Earl of Berkeley). The figure of Henry, Duke of Norfolk, in another portrait is by Lily. Two interesting copies of Holbein portraits are of value, since the originals perished in the fire at Whitehall.

In the drawing-room, which, with its apple-green decorations and its chairs and sofas covered with quaint chintz covers, retains a charming old-world appearance, is a beautiful Romney (a portrait of Lord George Sackville); a tinted pencil portrait of Lady Legge by Cosway; some exquisite miniatures (including one

of Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, Lady Betty's great friend and rival as an assiduous collector of antiques); a curious gilt clock of 16th-cent. work with the figures on a globe, round which a pointer travels to mark the hours; and two particularly beautiful gilt cups of the Commonwealth period with the Peterborough arms. In another room there is a portrait of Queen Mary by Lucas de Heere, and a fine Sir Joshua, another portrait of Sir George Sackville, from which an interesting comparison in the colouring and methods of the painter and his rival Romney may be made. Gainsborough also painted this gentleman, and the portrait is at Knole in Kent, the old seat of the Dukes of Dorset. A small parlour off the dining-room contains a Vandyck (the Duchess of Richmond) and some unique fire dogs, of English work, with enamelled fronts. In a corner of the passage on the ground floor there is a curious picture by Mayo, representing a game of "Canes" being played before the Emperor Charles V. It was an Eastern pastime, common among the Moors, and consisted of the throwing of light sticks at a rider who galloped past his assailants, the object being to hit the rapidly moving figure. Opposite this, a beautiful geometrical walnut staircase of the time of William III. winds its way to the upper part of the house leading to the long semi-circular roofed "trunk" gallery now used as a library. Off this are several smaller rooms, one of which was a priest's chamber. A room in

DRAYTON HOUSE—THE OLD LIBRARY

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the Edwardian portion facing the quadrangle was fitted up and used as a chapel in earlier days, but it was never anything more than a makeshift. A small room beyond the library was the powdering closet, and still has its bevelled mirrors, one of which occupies nearly the whole of the ceiling and is particularly worthy of notice. The spiral staircase which leads down from the priest's room is said to have inspired Sir Walter Scott in his description of Woodstock.

Outside the house, the gardens, which are of considerable extent, are full of interest. There is a large piece of water (one of several which have been filled up), from the farther edge of which one of the most effective views of the house is obtained. Pleached alleys, bordering the fruit gardens, with the trees bending inwards to form a roof of green boughs are a striking and characteristic feature; while the splendid iron-work of the entrance gates, which bear the cipher of Mary, Duchess of Norfolk, and the so-called banqueting houses, go to make up an exterior of more than usual interest. It is probable that while these banqueting houses were intended for summer festivities, they were also used as places where the men of the house could smoke—a practice which, at its first introduction, never took place within the walls of a mansion.

LUDDINGTON-IN-THE-BROOK is a village on the Hunts border, 1 m. S.E. of Barnwell. There are some very quaint gargoyles on the

church of St Margaret, a restored 15th-cent. building.

MAIDFORD, a small village 6 m. S.W. of Weedon, stands prettily on a stream which runs into the Tove, and lies under the edge of a ridge which runs from Charwelton towards Cold Higham. The church of SS. Peter and Paul has some E.E. portions, and its western tower carries a saddleback roof with gables, probably of the 14th cent. It is a good example of this particular kind of finish, very rare in Northamptonshire churches. The S. aisle and chancel retain their piscinæ. Several of the springs in the neighbourhood are impregnated with iron and mineral salts. There was once an important house here; there are remains of the moat and a range of out-buildings left.

MAIDWELL, a small village in a pretty district on the road from Northampton to Market Harborough, 9 m. W. of Kettering, had in the old days two manors and two churches. One of them has disappeared, and of the one standing, the church of St Mary, the chancel is modern. The oldest of the Haselwood tombs has coloured effigies with two kneeling children. There are also effigies of Lord Dundalk and his wife, 1634. Maidwell Hall, in which the 17th-cent. mansion was embodied, was burnt down in 1895, and has only been partially rebuilt. HASELBEECH, 2 m. to the W., lies in a pretty valley (4 m. W. of Lamport Station, N.W.R.). The church of St Michael has a good embattled west tower. The old oak benches, which did

duty before the modern pews were installed, have been preserved.

Marholm (a contraction of St Mary's holme) is a village a good mile W. of Walton. Until the 18th cent. the name was spelt Marham. It was among the possessions of Peterborough, and is so mentioned in a bull of Pope Eugenius III., in 1145. The church of St Mary has a low embattled tower, probably E.E. The chancel has an open timbered roof, and on the walls are hung several helmets and weapons. Its two tombs with effigies are interesting. That of Sir John de Wittlebury (1410) exhibits an unusual suit of armour, carved in clunch. The one of Sir William Fitzwilliam and his wife (1599) has the effigies coloured. Another knight of the same name is commemorated by a brass (1534), with one to his wife, under a canopy resting on supports of stone and twisted iron, and from the mouth of each figure a label with the words "Prohibere nefas" projects. These brasses appear to have been extensively restored.

MARSTON, which also receives the name of St Lawrence, the patron saint of its church, is a village 2 m. N. of Farthingho, in the direction of Banbury, towards the Oxfordshire border. The church is mainly Dec., and its choir screen, extending across the N. aisle, bears the date 1610, and is of an unusual design for that period. There is an aumbrey in the S. aisle, and a richly decorated octagonal font. In the interesting manor house, in which a Blencowe

has resided ever since the days of Henry VI., there is a good deal of carved oak of the same period and design as that in the church.

Middleton Cheney is an interesting village of some size on the road between Brackley and Banbury, from which latter place it is 3 m. to the N.E. There is an upper and a lower village. The designation Cheney is a corruption of Chenduit, a Ralph of this name being set down as Lord of the Manor in Domesday.

The church of All Saints is one of the best of the many Dec. churches in the county. Its lofty and embattled tower with the unusual number of eight pinnacles, carrying a tall and graceful spire, is Perp. The church was well rebuilt by Sir Gilbert Scott. Originally it was doubtless erected by the great builder William of Edyngdon, afterwards Bishop of Winchester, and the crest of the great Earl of Lancaster (beheaded at Pontefract, 1322), which occurs among the sculptured ends of the arch mouldings in the nave arcade, gives a clue to the date of erection (between 1330 and 1340). The addition of the chapel on the south side made the buttress on that side of the chancel arch necessary. The south porch is a late Dec. addition, and is an excellent specimen, with its groined roof and rich doorway. Figures of the Blessed Virgin and the Angel Gabriel occupy niches by the west door. The chancel has a piscina and an aumbry with double doors. One of the bells (1639) bears the inscription:—

" Let Aaron's bells continually be rung,
The word still preached and an Alleluia sung."

The village was the scene of an encounter between the Royalists and Parliamentarians in 1643, in which the latter were defeated; and many of the Roundheads lie buried in the churchyard.

Moreton Pinkney (N.W.) is a typical Northamptonshire village on high ground between Towcester and Byfield. It has another station on the G.C. called Culworth, although it is 2 m. from that village. The picturesque straggling main street contains some of the characteristic high-gabled houses, built of alternate layers of either the yellow and red sandstone—one is dated 1616—or of the oolitic stone and ironstone. From the village, which takes its name from the former holders of the Manor, there is a good view to the N., the church of Canons Ashby coming in the foreground. The church of St Mary the Virgin is very interesting. The nave is Trans. Norm., and the very beautiful E.E. chancel served as the design for the church which Dr Newman—afterwards Cardinal—built at Littlemore in Oxfordshire. The proportions were also followed for the chancel at Holdenby. The E.E. tower is also good, and rises in three slightly diminishing stages. Near the church is the manor house, retaining some of its Tudor appearances. It was practically rebuilt in 1860, not with much regard for its original design.

Canons Ashby is a mansion in a park with a

very pure herd of deer, and its escape from the hand of the restorer, and its picturesque air of antiquity, give it a charm much greater than either its size or importance. The village of Ashby, as its name shows, is the village of the ash trees, and here a priory of Augustinian canons was founded in Henry II.'s time. The Chartulary is still in existence. After the dissolution the lands passed to the Copes, by whose descendants the property was sold, in 1665, to Sir Robert Dryden, in which family it has since remained.

Of the Priory buildings a portion of the church (now a private chapel) remains, on the road between the station and the house, consisting of the nave, the N. aisle, and the tower by its side. The W. doorway and the arcade on each side is doubtless of the middle of the 13th cent., and an excellent specimen of its kind. Only one of the pinnacles on the tower is the original. The present house, which is quite distinct from the one erected by Sir John Cope, was built first by John Dryden, whose wife was the daughter of this John Cope. The house is his work, but the tower was evidently there before him The hall is a charming old apartment, decorated with some armour of the early 17th cent.—armour, by the way, that actually belonged to the house. The dining-room has a fine oak floor and wainscoting, and the double-coved plaster ceiling of the drawing-room, with a chimney-piece of similar decoration (Renaissance work), are specially noteworthy. The library has one or two theological tomes which were doubtless part of the

CANONS ASHBY

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monks' library, and a first folio Shakespeare. Several rooms are hung with 17th-cent. tapestry. In the garden the terrace slopes, with their low grey walls and quaintly clipped yews, and great cedars, are very picturesque, and the whole pile makes a charming picture.

Moulton (L.N.W), 2½ m. from Billing Station and 4 m. N.E. of Northampton, to the left of the road to Kettering, is a good-sized village, pleasantly interspersed with gardens and orchards. The church of SS. Peter and Paul, which is one of the largest in the deanery, has a fine tower of three Dec. stages and an elegant Perp. belfry. The nave is interesting. The S. piers and arches are Dec., but the north ones, which were begun as pure Norm., have gradually changed their plan during the process, and become Trans. in their character. The clerestories and aisles are Dec., with Perp. windows.

Nassington (N.W.R.), a fair-sized village, with its houses ranged round three sides of a square, is on the Nene, which here forms the boundary between the county and Huntingdon, and is about 5 miles N. of Oundle. The church of St Mary is particularly interesting, both on account of its lofty and impressive interior and from the fact that in early days it was attached to Lincoln (which diocese reached from the Humber to the Thames), and under prebendal jurisdiction. The old prebend's house is still standing—now a farm-house—on the road opposite to and S.W. of the church, the E. porch and the E. and W. doorways being intact, while

at the back are the mouldings and tracery of the Gothic windows which doubtless lit the nave. Two curiously carved heads of a monk and a nun are under the sill of one of the upper windows. There is also the customary stone dovecot.

The first prebendary was appointed about 1120. In the list preserved one Ranulf is set down (but without a date), the first actually dated one being William of Avalon, 1236. It was a frequent custom in early days to give money and lands to the abbeys and monasteries, the monks in return assuming the oversight of the churches whose revenues they held. The prebendary was, in fact, the bishop's vicegerent, holding power of excommunication. The honorary stall in Lincoln Cathedral is all that remains now of the prebendal jurisdiction, it having been abolished in 1845, subsequent to the Ecclesiastical Commission of 1835. Part of the "use" of Lincoln was the daily recitation of the Psalter, and each prebend had certain Psalms apportioned to him. The Psalms allotted to Nassington are the 110th to the 114th inclusive, and are marked on the back of the stall in the cathedral.

The church of St Mary and All Saints has traces of Saxon work in the tower and walls of the nave, but in the main it presents a good specimen of a 14th-cent. church, and passes through all the phases of E.E., Dec., and Perp. The tower was erected in 1640, no doubt replacing an earlier one. A beautiful E.E. arch in the S. aisle of the tower was opened out in the restoration (most judiciously done) in 1870.

The fine oak rafters and panels of the Perp. roof are in excellent preservation. A peculiar feature of the chancel is that the floor descends a step lower still, the pointed arches, the large windows with their varied tracery and deep splays showing the thickness of the walls, and the tall, well-lighted clerestory give the interior a dignified and spacious appearance. There are a few pieces of old red glass in some of the S. aisle windows, and traces of mural decoration, which appears to have covered at one time nearly the whole of the wide walls. In the N.W. corner of the nave is the shaft of a Saxon cross (with a crucifix on the back), and the Jacobean pulpit (rescued from many layers of paint) has the base of the hour-glass stand.

Yarwell, a mile to the N. of Nassington (to which the parish is attached), has a 13th-cent. church (St Mary Magdalen), once a handsome little building. It unfortunately has been allowed to fall into a sad state of disrepair, only the tower remaining in anything like its original condition. The stones of the nave arches, walled up and pierced with two unsightly windows and a common doorway, can be seen from the exterior. The village was formerly in the bounds of Rockingham Forest, and Sulehay Lodge was the residence of one of the keepers.

Naseby (L.N.W., 4 m. from Kelmarsh Station). The village lies 11 m. from Northampton and stands on high table land, from whence several rivers take their source. Its one interest is that "the crowning mercy" that crushed the

Royalist hopes was fought on its historic field. The ground on which the battle was waged lies a little more than a mile northwards of the village. But few relics or traditions remain of the fight. The Sulby Hedges which Okey's dragoons so stoutly defended are yet to be traced, and the graves of the slain, marked by depressions in the soil, are still pointed out. An ugly stone obelisk was put up in 1823, to commemorate the battle.

The church (All Saints') is of little interest, save that on one of its bells, cast in 1633, there is a device of Charles I. on horseback.

An urn with 38 silver Roman imperial coins was found here in 1874.

Newnham, 3½ m. W. of Weedon, is a most picturesquely situated village on hilly ground, and from the tops of the encircling hills good views are obtainable over some very pretty country. The church of St Michael (a chapel of Badby) has a Perp. tower (surmounted by an octagonal spire), which is open on the three sides of its base. The main arcade is E.E. on the N. side and Dec. on the S. Nearly all the windows contain some pieces of the old glass. On the S. aisle wall is a brass to Letitia, wife of Richard Catesby. The effigy is shown wearing a butterfly headdress and a long cloak. At the base is a scroll twined round a wreath with the motto, "God sende gud ende." The effigy of the husband is missing. Thos. Randolph, the poet and dramatist, a contemporary of Ben Jonson, was born in the village.

Newton Bromshold, a tiny village, stands

on the Beds border, 4½ m. S.E. of Higham Ferrers. The church of St Peter, mainly Dec. and Perp., has in its chancel the unusual number of six sedilia, and at the back of the easternmost is a piscina. There are brasses to former rectors—Wm. Hervet, 1426, and Roger Hervet, 1487—and in one of the N. aisle windows is some old glass, one portion being a portrait of a mitred priest, probably Archbishop Chicheley.

Newton-in-the-Willows, a small village 2 m. from Geddington Station and 4 m. N. of Kettering, is of little interest save for its church. The only remains of a fine house of the Treshams is an extensive dovecot in a field N. of the church. The church of St Faith, restored and enlarged in 1858, was formerly the private chapel of the Treshams, to whom there are some good brasses on the floor. The village is a short distance from the church and once had a church of its own, some of the remains of which may now be seen in a barn.

NORTHAMPTON, the capital of the county, stands on rising ground, half-encircled by the river Nene, which here turns its course northwards. Camden and many antiquaries claim for Northampton a British origin, as a settlement of that people overlooked the town, and one or two British coins have been found; but the evidence is insufficient to support the theory. It is certain, however, that it was of importance in Saxon times, as Alfred chose it as the chief town of the county when he divided England into shires, giving the prefix North to

distinguish it from its southern namesake. Saxons and Danes struggled for the possession of Hamtune, which was more than once burnt by the fierce Northmen.

The Conquest marks the period when Northampton enters into the record of English history. Domesday Book shows its rapid rise to importance. From a village of sixty houses under Edward, it rose to be a town of 330, with an estimated population of 1500. The Normans built the Castle (the site of which is now covered by the L. & N.W. goods station) and walled the town, while the first Northampton Earls, the St Liz, founded the abbey of Delapré and the priory of St Andrew's, and rebuilt that gem of Norman churches, St Peter's. Many Parliaments were held in the Castle, and Shakespeare lays the first scene of "King John" in its great hall. Fifty years earlier it was the scene of the quarrel between Henry II. and his great chancellor, after which Becket fled by night to appeal to the Pope against the king's condemnation. A local mint was established here, and both Richard and his brother John granted to the town charters conceding many privileges. It figured prominently in the war Henry III. waged against the Barons, and was taken and retaken during the strife. For a time it seemed as if it were to oust Oxford from its pride of place, a university having been founded in 1230, but a few years later it was deprived of the distinction.

In the Edwardian period Northampton was at its zenith. To the Scottish war it sent forty

men—a larger number than any town except Winchester. Its last parliament was in 1338, and from that time dated its gradual decline both military and political. It was the scene of one of the decisive battles of the Wars of the Roses, when, just outside the walls, the Lancastrians were defeated and their king taken prisoner. Its subsequent history is merged in the municipal life of an ordinary county town, save during the Commonwealth, when it strongly upheld the Parliamentary cause and furnished its army in 1648 with 1500 pairs of shoes. The "crowning mercy" of Naseby was fought but twelve miles away, and one of the first acts of Charles II. was to level to the ground the walls of the disloyal town.

The great fire of 1675, which swept away most of Northampton's mediæval buildings, is responsible for its modern look, but happily most of its churches escaped the flames. The exception is All Saints, of which only the original tower remains. The history of the church is more worthy of note than its fabric. The present church covers a far smaller space than did its pre-reformation Gothic predecessor. It is a strange mixture of styles, representing the worst period of architectural decadence. It has a Renaissance body with an Ionic portico (perhaps its best feature), in the centre of which is placed a statue of King Charles II. in a comic combination of a Roman toga and a flowing wig. He contributed a thousand tons of timber to its re-erection from the royal forests. The richly

decorated interior contains some interesting details, the ceiling being especially worthy of notice. Under the chancel is part of the original crypt. The poet Cowper furnished for several years a copy of verses to be appended to the annual bill of mortality, drawn up for the parish and delivered yearly to its inhabitants.

St Peter's Church, near the L. & N.W. station, is one of great beauty and interest, and one of the most perfect specimens of a late Norm. parish church to be found in England. Its restoration in 1851-52 fell into the hands of Sir Gilbert Scott, and his work was completed by his son, Mr Gilbert Scott, on the Norm. lines of the original builders. The church probably dates from the time of the last Earl of St Liz, who died in 1184. For many years previous to its restoration it shared the usual neglect into which church architecture had fallen. Miss A. E. Baker, sister to the county historian, devoted many months of patient labour to removing with her own hands all the thick coats of whitewash, laying bare the beauty of the delicate details. The most striking features of the interior are the beautiful quaint carving of the capitals of the nave arches and the elaborate and massive Norm. arch between the tower and the nave. John Smith, the eminent mezzotint engraver, was buried in the church, and there is a tablet and bust of Dr William Smith, the father of English geology. The Bakers, brother and sister, are also buried here.

S. PETER'S, NORTHAMPTON

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To the antiquary the most attractive of Northampton's churches is that of the Holy Sepulchre, one of the three round churches still existing in England. It dates from about 1100, and was in all probability built by Simon de Liz, a fervent crusader, as a thank-offering for his safe return from the Holy Land. Its restoration was begun in 1860 and completed in 1879. The most noteworthy feature is the round part which approximates more closely to its prototype at Jerusalem than any of its English imitators. It is a most impressive interior, with its eight massive Norm. pillars supporting pointed arches dimly lit by its narrow windows. Formerly a stone bench ran round the building, as still exists in the Temple Church in London, but only a small fragment here remains. The last *restoration* is responsible for its disappearance. The handsome font which stands in the centre of the round is a good adaptation of a 13th-cent. model. In the restoration of the church the chancel and aisles were greatly enlarged on the old foundations, and a south aisle and apse were added from Sir Gilbert Scott's designs. Most of the styles of English Gothic are to be found in the varied and striking interior.

St Giles is the remaining church dating from mediæval days, one of the few cross churches in the county, but it has experienced so much restoration in times less expert than our own that it has lost much of its primitive look. The tower fell in 1613, crushing down the N. aisle, necessitating a thorough rebuild-

ing; and in 1855 the whole church was rebuilt by Sir Gilbert Scott. There is a N.W. door, much modernised, and the lower part of the tower is also of this period. The chancel is perhaps the best feature of the church, with its E.E. lancets and a Dec. E. window. In the S. chapel (Perp.) is an altar tomb to one of the Gobion family.

There are several modern churches in Northampton, the most notable among them being St Edmund's, in the Wellingborough road, in the E.E. style, consecrated in 1852; and St Matthew's, in the Kettering Road.

The little church of Abington (once an outlying village, but now included in Northampton's new municipal boundaries) is in a delightfully secluded nook, surrounded by the public park of the town. It is of no interest architecturally, but in its parish registers occurs the entry of the burial of Elizabeth Barnard, the grand-daughter and last lineal descendant of Shakespeare. On the lawn of the adjoining abbey (now a museum, and never a religious house) stands a mulberry tree planted by Garrick in 1778, and which popular tradition claims to have been a cutting from one of Shakespeare's.

Among other places of worship is the Independent meeting-house, in which Doddridge ministered, and the fine Baptist chapel in College Street, where the Rylands, father and son, were the pastors for many years. Northampton is the seat of a Catholic bishopric, and there is a pro-

ST. SEPULCHRE'S, NORTHAMPTON

cathedral designed by the elder and younger Pugin, with some good stained glass, and convents of Notre Dame and Sisters of Nazareth.

St John's Hospital in Bridge Street is a quaint relic of old times. It is in the Dec. style, and its great hall has from time immemorial been broken up into cubicles for the inmates; while over head, just under the roof, are two great loft-like rooms. The recessed doorway, with a niche above, has interesting details. The adjoining restored chapel is late Dec., with a fine Perp. W. window. The E. window is filled with old stained glass, gathered together at the last restoration; figures of saints, scattered blazonry of ancient families, with a few Flemish roundels illustrating the history of Tobias. Some of the nobles who fell in the battle of Northampton were brought here for burial.

A pleasant walk of a mile along the London road, following the old causeway, leads to Queen Eleanor's Cross, one of the three remaining crosses raised by Edward I. to the memory of his beloved queen. This beautiful Gothic creation stands on high ground at the roadside, embowered in trees, and overlooking the valley of Delapré and the distant town, and has well withstood the ravages of time and weather. It has been often restored, at times with more zeal than discretion; and though much of the lower part is modern, yet the statues and carving of the upper portion show but little trace of the hand of the spoiler. There can be little doubt that the cross originally terminated in a figure of the

Virgin, and five figures having been provided for it, as shown by the original accounts.

In spite of its being a manufacturing town, Northampton has a singularly bright and attractive look, and it can boast that its working population is better housed than anywhere else in England. As in most of our ancient boroughs, its original plan was in the shape of a cross, which it still retains. The mediæval custom of locating each trade in its own special quarter is shown in the names of many of its streets. Thus we have the Drapery, Mercers' Row, Gold Street, and Woolmonger Street; while Sheep Street, Mare Fair, and Horsemarket recall the days, not long past, when the streets were used as a market. Bearward Street is a quaint reminder of the sport that was once so popular with our ancestors. There are two old houses still remaining, one in Mare Fair and the other on the north side of the "*Market Square*," as it is locally called. This is perhaps the second finest in England (Nottingham excepted), but the surrounding buildings, save one, are not imposing. The best time to see the Square to advantage is at the two weekly markets, when it is full of tilted stalls, presenting a faint replica of a French or Belgian marché.

The Town Hall in St Giles' Square was built at two distinct periods, the first portion, by E. W. Godwin, in 1864, and the second in 1892. It is in the florid Dec. style, foreign rather than English, and the effect of the richly sculptured front is fine, while the town's history

NORTHAMPTON—THE CROSS

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may be read in the statues and sculptures that line the façade and vestibule. The great hall is extremely striking. In one of the corridors is a remarkable series of shields affixed to the walls bearing the name of a mayor of the borough and the date of his mayoralty. They extend from 1377 to the present year, a record unexampled by any other municipality in the kingdom. The names of others have been recovered, and included in the "Borough Records," amounting altogether to a line of 583 mayors, the first on the list being a Frenchman of the name of Durrant, who was instituted by William the Conqueror in the place of the former Saxon bailiff. In the council chamber is a statue of Spencer Perceval by Chantrey. Nearly opposite is the County Hall, a very fine specimen of late Renaissance, built from the designs, according to Bridges, of an amateur, Sir Roger Norwich, Bart. It was completed in 1678. The plaster ceilings in the two courts should be noticed.

The Free Library and Museum are in the Guildhall Road, which, it is shortly hoped, by the aid of Mr Carnegie, to house more worthily than their present locality, part of the old county gaol. Mr T. J. George, the curator of the museum, has made it an admirable exponent of the antiquities of the county. It has a fine geological collection, given by the late Marquis of Northampton. In British and Anglo-Saxon remains it is very rich; among the former is a remarkable sword and scabbard found at Huns-

bury Hill, dating from the 8th cent. B.C. There is also an interesting educational series of English pottery. The library, which is doing very good work, contains 14,500 volumes, and the reference department is especially rich in local publications.

Northampton is fairly well provided with open spaces. Abington Park was acquired in 1897, and there are in addition extensive meadows on the S. side of the town, skirted by a fine promenade. The race-course, covering 117 acres, will shortly cease to be used for its original purpose. It has long been the principal play-ground of the town.

Northampton's population, which is increasing by leaps and bounds, was 76,070 at the census of 1901; just a hundred years earlier, it was 7020. Its principal trade, that of shoe-making, dates back to the Middle Ages, and in the 17th cent., old Fuller's epigram that "Northampton standeth chiefly on other men's legs" must have been as true as it was quaint. It is only, however, in the last fifty years that the town has attained its undoubted pre-eminence. It has but few other industries. Brewing is carried on extensively, and there are two or three iron foundries.

On the N.W. side of the city by the river, and touching the town walls, was the priory of St Andrew, an important house of Cluniac monks, dependent upon the Abbey on the Loire (see Round for date of foundation). The chartulary, in a fine state of preservation, is

among the Cotton MSS. (Vesp. E xvij.) (see Dugdale). All the Northampton churches come under their possessions. (For early visitations see Sir G. F. Duckett, "Visitations and Chapter-generals of the Order of Cluni," 2 vols., 1893). An interesting incident in connection with the history of the house was the visit of Thomas à Becket. Leland, who visited the town the year after the dissolution, mentions that Simon Senlis made the house but was not buried there, but in France. The two succeeding Earls were buried there and also an Archbishop. This was the Archbishop of Treves, who died while attending a council at Pipewell Abbey.

Kingsthorpe, prettily situated on the banks of the Nene, is now part of the borough of Northampton, but was a few years back a large village a mile and a half away. It is a delightful mixture of town and country, and away from its principal street (which the high road to Leicester traverses) one can soon reach the village of old days, clustering round its fine green, surrounded by rustic tenements, and the graceful spire of its church rising above all. On the green, up to a recent period, rustic sports were annually carried out, and as late as 1722 a "quintain" was erected. It was, indeed, a place of much importance in the 16th and 17 cents., full of old inns with spacious bowling-greens. Many county families had their residences here, and Baker records a tradition that three coaches and six were formerly displayed. There are remains built

into the cottage walls of the old hospital of St David, and higher up the street Lady Robinson's house has in its front a Dec. arch and niches speaking of its ecclesiastical origin. The church of St John the Baptist has a fine tower (with clasping buttresses) and spire, and shows good Norm. work in the interior, with later E.E. additions, the style in each case being so typical that it is quite easy to date. The crypt is in excellent preservation. A central pillar supports vaultings which rest upon eight responds on the wall. There is no trace of an entrance from the interior of the church. There is an 18th-cent. manor house of the Thorntons at the entrance to the village, and a pretty rural lane leads down to a picturesque watermill, whence a country ramble may be made through Dallington back to Northampton.

Northborough, a village on the road between Peterborough and Market Deeping, is a mile and a half from Peakirk Station. The little church of St Andrew is an excellent specimen of Dec. work, the S. aisle being particularly beautiful. The arched recess under the large S. window contained no doubt the two effigies which repose, in a much damaged condition, in the church at Glinton, the adjoining parish. They are those of Geoffrey Delamere and his wife, who built both the church at Northborough and its interesting manor house, which, although much altered, still contains some of the best domestic architecture of Edward III.'s time. The original portions which remain are the gatehouse and

hall, forming opposite sides of a court, and some part of the building adjoining the hall. The upper storey of the gatehouse has gone. The buildings by the gatehouse were erected in Charles I.'s day for stables, and in all probability Cromwell used them. Above the plaster ceiling of the interior of the hall the old trussed rafter roof still exists.

The Delameres once held a curious privilege, that of the Constableship of the Abbey of Peterborough. This led to much ill-feeling; and finally the monastery paid a sum of sixty marks a year to be quit of their officer. In 1564 Northborough came into the possession of the Claypoles. John, of that family, was one of those who refused to pay ship-money, and was afterwards made a baronet by Cromwell. His son, John, married Cromwell's daughter Elizabeth. Cromwell's widow resided here until her death. In 1682 it passed to Lord Fitzwilliam, the ancestor of the present owner.

Norton (by Daventry) is a village 2 m. E. of Daventry. Its church of All Saints (Dec. and Perp.) has an elaborate altar-tomb, with a coloured effigy under a canopy, to Lady Elizabeth Seymour, daughter of the Protector Somerset and second wife of Sir Richard Knightley, who died in 1602. Norton Hall, just past the Brockhall Woods, is a good old house standing in a park of some hundred acres. It was built by Sir Richard Knightley in the late 16th cent., and was formerly the residence of Beriah Botfield, a well-known antiquary and

book-lover, whose library remains in the house.

Oakley, Great, is pleasantly situated 1 m. from Geddington Station. The church of St Michael, which stands in the park near the hall, has some interesting features, one of which is that both nave and aisle have one large roof of Collyweston slate. The porch, nave, and S. aisle are late Norm. An aumbry in the N. wall, and a piscina in the S. wall mark the original extent of the chancel. There are a good rood screen, and handsome *Miserere* stalls in the chancel, also a few well-carved panels. The figured tiles in the chancel came from Pipwell Abbey, which was partly in this parish. There are several interesting monumental inscriptions commemorating members of the Brooke family; the earliest is a brass tablet in the S. wall to the memory of Thomas Brooke, Esq. (1557), the builder of the present mansion. The tower is comparatively modern. It blocks part of a window in the W. end of the church. The old hall is said to have joined the church on the west.

Great Oakley Hall (not usually shown), the seat of Sir Arthur de Capell Brooke, Bart., stands in a well-timbered park. It is a fine Tudor mansion of the early part of the reign of Henry VIII. It has some very good carved woodwork, doors, door-posts, lintels, panels, etc. One panel represents a giant devouring children, and in the dining-room is a fine carved sideboard, dated 1619. Amongst other interest-

ing objects are a piece of tapestry, worked by Amy Robsart, and a collection of armour and weapons. There are some good family portraits, two by Kneller, and a portrait of the Lord Chief Justice Montagu of Boughton (with whom the family were allied by marriage), and some beautiful miniatures.

Oakley, Little, 1 m. from Geddington Station (M.R.), is a small village by the side of Harper's Brook, with a fine late Norm. church (St Peter's) in which are some mural monuments to the Markham family; to William Montagu, fifth son of Chief Justice Montagu of Boughton; and a remarkable recumbent figure, apparently of Edward I.'s day, discovered at the restoration in 1867. Note especially the iron frame on the pulpit containing the stand on which the Puritan preachers placed an hour-glass. Particularly interesting in the N. chapel is a Norm. stone altar with steps and rood. Just to the S.W. of the churchyard is the ancient manor house of the Montagus.

Orlingbury is a pretty little village around a green, 2 m. S.W. of Isham. The church of St Mary stands on the site of an earlier edifice, in the rebuilding of which some of the E.E. work has been preserved. There is an unnamed effigy tomb in the chancel, of the last quarter of the 14th cent. The figure has "I.H.C. Nazareni" on the bascinet, and the jupon bears the heraldic device of a fess between three lozenges.

Orton, 1 m. S.W. of Rothwell (to which the living is attached), has an interesting E.E.

church. Boring for coal was undertaken here some years ago, the only result of which was some geological discoveries of interest, one of them being that the lordship stands over the crater of an extinct volcano.

Oundle (L.N.W.), 13 m. S.W. of Peterborough, is one of the pleasantest of Northamptonshire towns, surrounded on three sides by the Nene, crossed here by two bridges, one an ancient structure, rebuilt in 1570. The town has been "Undalum" from the time of Bede, but the derivation, particularly from Avondale, is uncertain. Many Roman remains have been found, and a series of coins from Claudius to the latest emperors.

The speculative builder has happily not yet laid his fell grasp on Oundle, and its long main street has a delightful old-world look, full of gray houses, with picturesque gables and oriel windows, and peeps into courtyards of 16th-cent. almshouses and hospitals. The Talbot Inn is a quaint Jacobean hostelry, built, so says tradition, from the ruins of Fotheringhay, and claiming to possess its oak staircase, lighted by the window from its banqueting-hall.

In the 7th cent. St Wilfred of Northumbria founded a small monastery here, where he died (709). The church of St Peter is an imposing structure, with a fine late Perp. tower and spire, the latter of which has been twice rebuilt, the last time in 1874. The nave and aisles are E.E., with Dec. windows inserted and a Dec. clerestory. The nave piers and capitals deserve

special notice. The transepts and chancel are Early Dec.; the latter has a good modern E. window. The pulpit, which is late 15th cent., is a very fine one, and the brass lectern is an excellent example of the same period. There is a crypt under the S. transept.

Oundle school, founded by Sir Wm. Laxton, Lord Mayor of London, in 1544, is of late years growing in favour. The picturesque old fabric has been rebuilt to suit modern requirements, as also a "praty alms house" on the S. side of the churchyard, bearing the date 1485 on its gates in Leland's time.

Overstone, 4½ m. N. of Northampton, is a village in pretty but not specially characteristic country. The arch from the old Pytchley Hall, where members of the famous old hunt were wont to gather in the old days, has been erected at one of the entrances to Overstone Hall. The house is modern, Italian in design, and in its library comprises most of the material, in the shape of maps, plans, etc., which Baker gathered for his book on the county. There are also several interesting MS. letters of Prince Rupert and others dealing with the period of the Civil War, with some of the poet Gray. The church, which is in the park, is modern, and has recently been restored.

Oxenden Magna (L.N.W., 1 m. from Clipstone Station), a village 3 m. from Market Harborough, has a Dec. church (St Helen) which contains a monument to the Rev. John Morton, rector here from 1706 to 1737, author of the

"Natural History of Northamptonshire," London, 1712.

Paston (Midland, 1 m. from Walton Station), consists but of a few scattered houses, and stands 2½ miles from Peterborough, embowered in trees. The church of All Saints is interesting; the Dec. tower and broach spire are the principal features. There is a stair turret with a pointed roof, which stands out in bold relief.

Pattishall (L.N.W., 3 m. from Towcester Station) is a quaint village standing just off the Watling Street. Its church is dedicated to the Holy Cross.

The parish comprises the hamlets of Astcote, Eastcote, Dalscote, and Descote, *cote* being a termination peculiar to this district. At Foster's (anciently Forester's) Booth on the Watling Street was formerly a fresco on the George Inn representing the death of the stag, with the date 1637.

Paulerspury (L.N.W., 3 m. from Towcester Station) is a scattered village, and takes its name from the ancient lords the Pavelis; contracted locally into Paul, a family who were benefactors of the nunnery at Sewardesley.

Its church, dedicated to St James, contains the wooden effigies of Sir Laurence de Paveley (living 1329) and his wife. The man wears the rare fluted bascinet and sleeved haketon, and a short-sleeved cyclas, a development of the ancient surcote, and one of the fourteen examples in England. The figure of the lady has much

artistic merit. The effigies of Arthur Throckmorton and his wife (1626) are good examples of portrait statues.

Dr William Carey, the Protestant patriarch of Indian missions, was born here in 1761.

Between this village and Grafton Regis stands in a hedgerow what is known as the Queen's Oak, the tree under which tradition places the meeting between Elizabeth Woodville and her youthful royal lover.

Peakirk, a village a short distance from the Lincolnshire border, is 5½ m. N. of Peterborough, and lies in a characteristic bit of country that is both distinctive and picturesque. On the N.E. a low level stretches, broken by clumps of trees and by the banks of streams or ditches. The slowly-moving Welland, thickly fringed with reeds, and broadening out in places into little lakes, and in flood-time making serious inroads on the adjoining land, is reminiscent of Holland; while on the peaceful and quiet air is carried, even in these days of civilisation, the cry of many a wild bird which still manages to breed in this now far from lonely bit of the country. To the S. and W. the high land begins, and is very fertile and highly farmed. Besides the accustomed rural life, a certain amount of work goes on in connection with the gravel pits, gravel being the subsoil of the whole neighbourhood to the S. and W.

The very interesting church of St Pega perpetuates the memory of the sister of St Guthlac, the founder of Crowland Abbey, who took up

her abode here about 716. It is built of Barnack stone, and is a curious mixture of styles, Norm., E.E., and later, while the S. aisle (an addition) is Dec. The best of the Norm. work is the inner doorway of the porch, three arches in the N. aisle, and the capitals on which the chancel arch rests. Both chancel and N. aisle have a piscina and an aumbrey. A curious opening to the left of the E. window has been doubtfully explained as meant for the showing of a relic to the outside worshippers.

Near the church is the Hermitage, a 15th-cent. building, one part dating about 1260, erected by John de Wysbeck on the site of St Pega's cell, as the chapel of a college in connection with Crowland Abbey. It was restored in 1880 by Mr Francis James, of Edgeworth Manor, Gloucestershire, and from time immemorial it has been known by the name which bears witness to the nature of the original foundation. After the Dissolution it became a private dwelling, and gradually became dilapidated. Since its restoration in 1880 it has been used for various parochial purposes.

PETERBOROUGH (G.N., G.E., L.N.W., M.). The old burgh of St Peter's, and the head of a diocese, is a city and Parliamentary borough on the north bank of the Nene, in a low and marshy situation on the borders of the great Fen District. The liberty or Soke (A.S. Soc, a place privileged to hold a court) of Peterborough has, under the Local Government Act, been declared to be an administrative

county distinct from the remainder of the shire. It has its own magistrates, appointed by a *Custos rotulorum* (the Marquis of Exeter), and they retain their power of hanging a criminal, which was exercised as late as 1812. Until 1885 Peterborough returned two members to Parliament.

It is one of those English towns which, like Bury St Edmunds, have grown up around the great monastery which was founded by Saxulf, a Mercian thegn, in 655, who was its first abbot, under the auspices and protection of Peada, King of Mercia, son of that fierce old warrior Penda. Its early name was Medehamstede (the meadow homestead), and it soon became one of the most flourishing of the Benedictine abbeys in England, and a prominent centre for the spreading of Christianity. In 870, with the adjacent abbeys of Crowland and Ely, it was burnt by the Danes, and lay in ruins for more than a century, until rebuilt by Athelwold, Bishop of Winchester, in 966. It was surrounded by a defensive wall or "burgh," and thenceforth was known as Peterborough. In its early days the monastery was attached to the diocese of Lincoln, and was ruled by its abbots until the Reformation, when its last abbot, Chambers, became the first bishop of the new see.

It was Abbot John of Sais who, in 1117, after the great fire which practically swept away the town and monastery, began the present Norm. portion of the building, still its characteristic feature after the west front, and which has remained practically unaltered to our own day.

Completed by his immediate successors, it was opened with great pomp in 1140. Except Durham and Tewkesbury, the Norm. work of Peterborough stands unrivalled, and the massive pillars of its nave, with the vaulting of the choir, apse, aisles, and transepts, are wonderfully impressive in their severity. Under the S. aisle there is a portion of the old Saxon church brought to light during some recent repairs Many of the details, especially those of the triforium, closely resemble those of Ely. The dimensions of the nave are 211 ft. by 33, with a height of 81, exceeding the neighbouring Norm. cathedrals of Ely and Norwich in all these respects.

The remarkable ceiling, which is of the 12th cent., and is ascribed to Abbot Benedict, who ruled the monastery from 1177 to 1193, is half octagonal in form. It is painted in lozenge-shaped divisions, many of which contain figures of royal and ecclesiastical personages intermixed with curious grotesques.

A few years later, probably between 1200 and 1222 (no record remaining of the exact date), was built the west front, which is the special glory of the cathedral, and the first view of which, from the fine western gateway, is worth a long pilgrimage. Indeed, persons who like wide arches claim that it is the most perfect west front in Christendom, and but for the addition of the porch and parvise (erected in 1370), which admirably gives it scale, its equal is not to be found. This singularly beautiful creation, the work of a nameless

architect, is one of the noblest specimens of that most national period of Gothic, the E.E. It wants perhaps the richness of the later styles, but is perhaps even more impressive in its comparative simplicity than it would have been as a Dec. or Perp. front. The three great arches which compose it are 81 feet in height, the central one being narrower than the outside ones, a departure from the usual rule which has never been successfully accounted for. The arches are supported by triangular piers entirely detached from the west wall, and are faced with banded shafts, while above rise two turrets capped with spires and pinnacles of a later date than the rest of the front, viz., late Dec. The arches themselves support gables enriched with arcades and niches, and having in each a circular "rose" window. The niches, it is curious to note, retain nearly all their original statues, in spite of the Cromwellian iconoclasts who wrecked the interior of the cathedral. In the top of the central gable are figures of the three patron saints, St Peter, St Paul, and St Andrew, to whom the church was dedicated in 1237. In all thirty figures adorn the front. Nine are figures of the apostles and six of the first kings of England. The parvise or porch, which in itself is a fine piece of work, is a rich specimen of early Perp., and by no means objectionable for the reasons that have been already given. And if, as has been urged, it was erected to serve as an abutment to ensure the stability of the front, which had

begun to show signs of giving way, we must certainly hold the designer well excused.

The only other E.E. work in the cathedral are the remains of the lady chapel, which the Puritans partly demolished in 1643. The last addition to the main edifice was the "New Building," as it is still called, built between 1483 and 1500. This is noticeable for the fan-tracery of the roof, rivalling indeed the far-famed King's College Chapel, Cambridge, which, it is thought, was by the same architect. The *raison-d'être* of this peculiar eastern aisle was to serve as a species of shrine room in which Peterborough was greatly deficient. Among the monuments is the stone formerly supposed to have been erected by Godric to the monks slaughtered by the Danes in 870, but it is shown by later authorities to date only from early in the 11th cent., the figures being those of our Lord and the Apostles and the abbatical figures. In the north choir aisle is the grave of Catherine of Arragon, whose sad fate was the turning-point in England's change of faith. She lies here, as by her last wishes, interred "as a Queen, and daughter to a King." The banners and all the pride, pomp, and circumstances that ornamented her tomb were the prey of Cromwell's Roundheads, who, be it said in passing, wrecked also the thirty painted windows put in by Robert de Lindesey. Only modern glass now remains. The tomb in which Mary Stuart rested until her removal to Westminster is marked by a black marble slab at the

entrance to the S. aisle. Many other remains of the distinguished dead abbots and bishops will be met with in the apse and aisles. At the entrance to the nave hangs the portrait of Old Scarlett (d. 1594), who digged the graves of Catherine of Arragon and Mary Stuart.

From the well-kept precincts of the cathedral a striking view of its exterior may be obtained. There still remain many interesting relics of the pre-Reformation buildings in and adjoining the close. Only a fragment of the great cloister is standing, but there is a rich trans-Norman portal placed almost opposite to the abbot's door in the cathedral, and another plainer portal with an open Norman arch. A fine remnant of the Infirmary (built 1248-61), of seven bays and three open arches, lies beyond the outer close, and in the wall of the bishop's garden are portions of the old refectory.

Before the W. front on the S. side the abbot's gateway, leading to the episcopal palace, is worthy of notice. It is E. Dec. with square turrets at the angle, in each of which is a niche containing a figure, that of Edward II.

N. of the main gateway to the close is the chancel of the chapel of St Thomas of Canterbury, which now serves as a Grammar School. It is Early Perp. and has a fine E. window.

Modern Peterborough has four parishes, but the churches of two are modern. The parish church *par emphasis* is St John the Baptist, rebuilt in 1406-7, a good specimen of Perp. work but of no especial interest. More so is the E.E.

chapel in the parish of Longthorpe, 1262-73, which, though simple in design, is, like Strixton, very effective. It has the original windows of two plain lancet lights. Not far from it is a curious fortified house of the same date and a fine monastic barn of the 13th cent.

Peterborough is a thriving, bustling city, thoroughly modern, and owing its growing importance to its being the central point of so many railway systems. The Great Northern and Midland both carry on extensive works here, which give employment to numbers of people, and the Great Eastern and London and the North-Western also have large stations.

From the foundation of the abbey by Kings Peada and Oswy in 655, when the good monk Saxulphus was appointed its abbot, there have been up to the present time a line of forty-five abbots and eight-and-twenty bishops who have ruled over its destinies. Not many of the former were men of mark, and among the bishops the few names that rise above mediocrity belong to our own days. Most of the early abbots lived in troublous times, but as the centuries rolled on each in turn took his share of building and beautifying the Minster. The last abbot, John Chambers, was the first bishop, consecrated in 1541. A Catholic in belief, he had not the courage of his convictions, and subserviently took the oath of supremacy to the king, and so saved his life and see. David Pool, the second bishop, was of sterner stuff, and upon Elizabeth's accession refused to own

her supremacy, and died in retirement. His successors during her reign were of little note, save Thomas Dove (died 1631), whom the queen called "her Dove with the silver wings." John Towers (d. 1648) was one of the twelve bishops who protested against the action of Parliament in curtailing their privileges, and was thrown into the Tower. Thomas White was one of the seven bishops imprisoned by James II., but curiously enough, on the accession of William III., he lost his bishopric as a Jacobite and Nonjuror. White Kennet (d. 1718) was an industrious if somewhat superficial antiquary. He is pictured as Judas in a picture of the Last Supper, formerly in St Mary's, Whitechapel.

A long line of prelates succeeds, among them a few men of some literary ability like Herbert Marsh (d. 1819), a voluminous and effective writer, and George Davys (d. 1839), author of many educational works. The name of William Connor Magee (d. 1891), who ruled Peterborough for twenty-three years, is perhaps its greatest figure on the roll of fame. As an orator and controversialist he was alike brilliant, and it was said of him "that if eloquence could have justified injustice he would have saved the Irish Church." He was worthily succeeded by Mandell Creighton (d. 1901), who takes the highest rank as a clear and impartial historian of the vexed times of the Reformation. The present occupant of the see is Dr Edward Carr Glynn.

The effigies of the six Abbots of Peterborough are of special interest, and form a most valuable series of early abbatical figures, ranking with the similar groups at Westminster, Wells, York, and Rochester. All except the latest are in Purbeck marble, and are shown vested in alb, chasuble, amice, stole, and maniple. All except one bear the pastoral staff in the right hand and the book of the Gospels in the left. Three are standing upon dragons, and three of them were in all probability coffin-lids. They are as follows:—

1. Abbot Benedict, 1193.
2. Robert de Lyndseye, 1222.
3. Walter de St Edmund, 1245. (This effigy shows the parure or apparel of the alb and a pendant ornament to keep the lower part of the chasuble in place by its weight.)
4. John de Caleto, 1262. (This effigy is curious from the fact that two angels are shown supporting the head by grasping the ears of the figure.)
5. Richard de London, 1295. (A mutilated effigy, but showing fine carving in a very hard material.)
6. Robert Kirton, 1528. (A clunch effigy.)

It is on record that many rulers of this great Benedictine house had brasses for their monuments, all of which were despoiled in 1643.

Pilton is picturesquely situated on the Nene, about 3 m. N. of Aldwincle. Extensive woods, called the "Lynches," dip down to the water's

edge, and rich meadows reach to the flag-fringed banks. In the village there is a quaint old cottage, in which some E.E. ecclesiastical stonework has been used, said to have been fragments from a chapel at Thorpe Waterville. All Saints' Church has some E.E. portions. Erasmus Dryden and Mary Pickering, the parents of the poet Dryden, were married here in 1630. The rectory was formerly the manor house. It has some splendid oak panelling and staircase.

Pitsford (L.N.W.), 1 m. off Brampton Station and 5 m. N. of Northampton, is a pretty village to the right of the Market Harborough road. The church of All Saints, attractively placed on a mound to the N.W. of the village, surrounded by some fine trees, is E.E., but the tower is the only part that has not suffered at the hands of injudicious restorers. The S. doorway, however, is a remarkable specimen of Early Norm. work. It is flat-headed, with a rudely sculptured tympanum, and the iron-work of the door is almost coeval with the stonework. There is a tumulus near the village, and in 1882 Saxon urns containing bones were unearthed.

Polebrook, a small village 2 m. S.E. of Oundle, has a very interesting church (All Saints); the E.E. work, which was added to the original late Norm. building, and evidently due to the Peterborough builders, being particularly good, while the restoration has been judiciously carried out. The arcade on the wall of the N. aisle, with its detached Norm.

fronts, is well worth study. The piscina in the chancel is also curious from its unusual design. The Norm. arcade in the nave with the round arches is very striking, the volute on the pier capital indicating the Trans. period. The manor was held until the Dissolution by the Abbots of Peterborough.

At Armston, a hamlet of Polebrook, was a hospital with a chapel, built by Ralph de Trubleville and his wife in 1232.

Potterspury is on the eastern edge of the large tract formerly comprising Whittlebury Forest. In early days a coarse ware resembling terra-cotta was made here from clay brought from Cosgrove. The church of St Nicholas has been very much restored. There is an early 17th-cent. brass with effigy and heraldic device, in the S. aisle, to the wife of Cuthbert Ogle, a lieutenant of the forest. The woodland district surrounds Wakefield Lodge, the seat of the Duke of Grafton. The house was built by the second Duke, and in the grounds is a very large lake covering nearly forty acres.

Preston Capes, a small village about 5 m. S. from Daventry and 6 m. S.W. from Weedon, has a pretty ivy-covered church standing on a hill, one side of which falls away very abruptly. Its old portions are the two arcades, the S. one dating about 1200, the N. a century later. In the porch is a holy-water stoup. Hugh de Leycestre is put down as the manor lord in Domesday. His castle stood on the hill to the left towards Fawsley. In Bridges' time the

porter's ward was standing. Every vestige of the building has now disappeared, but the keep foundations form a prominent elevation. Nearly adjoining is a farmhouse, once the mansion of the more modern lords. All around here the view is over broken and picturesque country, well wooded. The old road, used by the Romans and called Portway, passed to the S. of the church. It ran from Daventry to Alcester in Oxfordshire.

PYTCHLEY, about 3 m. S.W. from Kettering, is celebrated as the cradle of the well-known hunt to which it gives its name. Before the Conquest a manor here was held by the service of hunting "vermin" in the king's forest. The famous Pytchley Club-house was built from designs by Inigo Jones in the time of James I. The club consisted of forty members, who resided there during the hunting season. Early in the last cent. the hounds were removed to Brixworth. The club-house was closed in 1816 and pulled down in 1828. Its site may still be seen. The ancient gateway was erected at the entrance to Overstone Park, and Inigo Jones' quaint porch is at Glendon Hall. For many years there has been the Brixworth pack of hounds, known as the Pytchley pack, and another pack kept in the kennels at the back of the "Three Cocks" at Brigstock, known as the "Woodland Pytchley." Before (and since) this division the hounds were transferred from one set of kennels to the other, according to the hunting arrangements.

The church of All Saints (Norm. and E.E.) has been well restored, this process revealing a British burial-place under the foundations of one of the walls. The upper stage of the tower was added about 1427. The N. aisle is exceptionally wide.

Ravensthorpe is a village $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. N.W. of Spratton Station. The church of S. Dionysius has a Dec. tower, and in the S. aisle is a large and curious chest overlaid with iron plates. In it were found the portion of the breastplate and the gauntlets which hang in the vestry. Some of the original seats, with square traceried ends, remain, and part of the door which led to the rood loft is still to be seen at the end of the S. aisle.

Roade (N.W.R.) is a small village on the Buckingham road, $5\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of Northampton. The church of St Mary is modern, but from a date on a stone, 1619, it would seem that materials of an old building were utilised, and the presence of a piscina in the chapel and an altar-tomb (assigned to Richard Wake of Hartwell), and a part of the upper slab of another tomb (inscribed with a prayer for the repose of the soul of Matilda Mallipre), point to a 15th-cent. building before this. The manor house, now Hyde farm, has a 15th-cent. circular dovecot.

Rockingham, 1 m. from its station (L. & N.W.R.), 3 from Weldon and Corby (M.R.), and 9 by road from Kettering, is a charming example of a Northamptonshire village. The

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unfenced flower gardens add to the picturesque appearance of the long, wide street, winding up the hill. Entered from the N., the first house on the right is noticeable as having been, years gone by, the "hostel" of the village. A little higher up is the present village inn, with its traditions of old coaching days, and near it the ancient Market, or "Butter" Cross. These, with some old houses, the church, and still higher up, the castle, take us back to times long past. If the tourist takes the road from Kettering, he will see, on the right hand, near the sixth milestone, "King's Wood," a genuine relic of old "Rockingham Forest," and on the top of the next hill a moated house, one of the old hunting lodges. Here is Benefield Lawn, celebrated by Michael Drayton. Until recent years Rockingham Fair was one of the great annual events of the county.

Rockingham manor (and village) was an appendage of the Duchy of Cornwall; the castle was Crown property. These were united by the Watsons early in the 17th cent.

The church of St Leonard is quite a modern erection, the original E.E. building having been destroyed by the commander of the Parliamentary forces immediately after his occupation of the castle, because it offered a convenient shelter to the Royalist troops in their attempts to retake the place. A new church was built at the end of the Civil War, the enlargement and restoration of which has resulted in the present handsome

and well-appointed modern church. The monuments in the church and mortuary chapel are to members of the Watson family. Notice in the sanctuary that to Anne, daughter of the unfortunate Lord Strafford. She married Edward, the second Baron Rockingham, and their third son, Thomas, founded that branch of which the noted Charles, Marquis of Rockingham, was a member. The altar-tomb in the mortuary chapel is supposed to be that of Sir Edward Watson (son of the restorer of the castle) and his wife, Eleanor Digby. Rockingham Castle presents an interesting combination of the features of an ancient fortress with the comforts of a modern mansion. Built by the Conqueror, very early in his reign, upon a commanding site which had been successively a British, a Roman, and a Saxon stronghold, it was chosen by William Rufus as a suitable place in which to assemble a number of prelates and nobles to consider the position taken by Archbishop Anselm. It was a favourite resort of the Plantagenet kings, especially of John, Edward I., and Edward III., who spent much time there when hunting in the adjacent forest, the original pack of buck-hounds being kept at Little Weldon for the king's use.

One of the constables or custodians of the castle, the Earl of Albemarle, rebelled against the young King Henry III., and the castle was not recovered until, after a prolonged siege, want of provisions compelled the rebel to surrender. By this siege the buildings were much damaged,

ROCKINGHAM CASTLE—THE GATEWAY

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and after many repairs, the castle was almost rebuilt by Edward III. During the Wars of the Roses the fortress fell into neglect, and when visited by Henry VIII. and his last queen, Katherine Parr, the King expressed great anger on seeing its ruinous condition, when, according to Leland, it was roofless and "faull to ruin," but the strength of the walls and the "exceedingly fair and strong keep" elicited his admiration. It was in this condition when young Edward Watson obtained his first lease of it from Philip and Mary and commenced his judicious restoration. His grandson Lewis, first Baron Rockingham, purchased the site of the castle from James I. and the park from the Duke of Buckingham, to whom the king had given it. At the beginning of the Civil War the castle was taken by the Parliamentary troops, and only restored to Baron Rockingham (on his paying a heavy fine) at the end of the war. The oldest portions of the castle now remaining are the keep (Norm.), the foundations of the curtain wall, and the towers (probably Norm.), and the walls of the large hall—of the time of Edward III. The points of interest in the interior are the large hall (with indications of the Minstrel's Gallery) and the handsome Long Gallery. In the hall are two ancient chests, and a "Black Jack" of the time of Charles I. There are some good pictures, chiefly family portraits, and fine old furniture. The castle is not shown, except on special occasions, but the lovely grounds may be seen by previous applica-

tion. The view towards the N. and W., from the terrace, is unsurpassed in the county.

Rothersthorpe, 1½ m. from Blisworth Station and 3½ m. S.W. of Northampton, is a rural little village with a prominent clump of poplars to mark its whereabouts to the wayfarer. It is secluded and out of the world, and well worth a visit for its quaint surroundings. It has some extensive earthworks dating from before the Conquest, and in the very centre of the village is a camp occupying a space of four acres, locally called the "Berry" from the Anglo-Saxon "Burh" a fort. The church of SS. Peter and Paul with a saddle-backed tower, the most distinctive of the few in the county, has a venerable look and sadly needs judicious restoration. It is mainly Dec. with a good Norm. font and an E.E. doorway. There is a squint of the S. side of chancel, and in the wall under an ogee arch crocketed with Dec. mouldings is the founder's tomb.

ROTHWELL, 4 m. N.W. from Kettering, and 2 S.W. of Desborough Station (from both of which there is frequent daily communication by omnibus), is a most interesting town, once surrounded by a wall with several gates, of which the names of two survive—East Port and West Port. Under the Clares, Earls of Gloucester, and the Staffords, it was a place of considerable importance. Its decline has been followed by a spell of commercial activity owing to the establishment of boot factories, which has caused a large increase in the size of the town.

MARKET HOUSE, ROTHWELL (BEFORE RESTORATION)

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Jesus Hospital, founded in 1590 by Owen Ragsdale, for twenty-four poor men, should be inspected. The handsome Market House was begun in 1577 by Sir Thos. Tresham but left unfinished. Recently it has been completed as far as possible according to the original design, under the direction of Mr J. Alfred Gotch, and is used as the offices of the Urban Council and the Free Library. On the left of the street leading to Desborough are some old buildings called "the Nunnery" on the site of a small priory of Austin nuns, founded by Robert Clare, Earl of Gloucester, towards the end of the 13th cent. W. of the church is a good manor house which has replaced the old residence of the Clares.

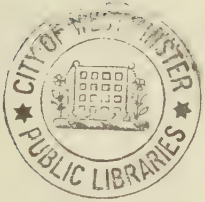
Rothwell Fair, held in the week following Trinity Sunday, has been famed for seven centuries throughout the Midlands, and used to be visited annually by the Earl of Chester's "singing men." The church of the Holy Trinity is most interesting. Norm. work is seen in the round-headed windows in the S. of the chancel. The remaining parts of the church are Trans. and E.E. It was originally much larger, having N. and S. transepts and a fine spire, which fell in 1660, much damaging the tower. The *Miserere* stalls with their admirable carving; the tombs of Edward Saunders (near the door of the vestry, known as the Saunders Chapel); of Owen Ragsdale, and of Wm. de Rothwell (*circ.* 1220); the fine triple piscina and quadruple sedilia in the sanctuary; and an old parish

chest in the N. chancel aisle are all worth particular notice.

Under a portion of the N. aisle is a remarkable crypt, accidentally discovered in the 18th cent. during the process of making a vault. It contains a vast number of human bones neatly arranged along the walls and known as the "Rothwell bones." The fact that the churchyard has been at various times encroached upon for building purposes, involving a disturbance of the contents of the graves, doubtless accounts for this collection. In the church are several monumental tablets to the Lane family, who for many generations were lords of the manor of Glendon.

RUSHDEN (M.R.) is a large and increasing town entirely occupied in the manufacture of shoes, which sixty years ago was a village with hardly more than 1000 inhabitants. Its church of St Mary the Virgin is full of interest. The fine taper spire surpasses that of Higham Ferrers in grace, its pierced flying buttresses and pinnacles giving it a look of airy lightness. The W. tower portal is under a shallow porch with a trefoiled niche and supported by two flying buttresses, a remarkable feature.

The interior is very striking. The wide nave is strengthened by an early Perp. strainer arch of great beauty, almost an exact replica of the one at Finedon, put into it to sustain the thrust of the W. arches of the transept. The three sedilia and piscina niches in the sanctuary are very beautiful, and are instances of very early


CITY OF WESTMINSTER
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RUSHTON HALL

Dec. work, showing the change from E.E., while the heads on the canopy terminations are excellent examples of sculpture of the time. Originally there must have been five altars in this fine church. The inscribed "Bochar arch" at the entrance to the S. transept is another beautiful feature. Across it runs a parclose or screen of good design enclosing the adjoining transept. The font is of good early Dec. work.

RUSHTON has its station on the M.R., and is 4 m. N.W. of Kettering, by a pleasant road. Here were formerly two churches—St Peter's, which stood close to the Hall, and was taken down in 1789, and All Saints, an interesting church with styles from the 12th to the 15th cent. It has been well restored and contains two interesting monuments. In the chancel, on an altar tomb, is the effigy of Sir Thomas Tresham, the last Lord Prior in England, of the order of St John of Jerusalem, shown in his robes. He was grandfather of the builder of the Hall. This effigy was brought from St Peter's Church. In the N. chapel is the effigy in Purbeck marble of a cross-legged knight in mail, Sir William de Goldingham, died 1296. It is an excellent instance of the armour of the time. Rushton Hall is a fine example of the English Renaissance. It is one of the few great houses of the time that retains the screen or fourth side of the quadrangle untouched. Built by Sir Thomas Tresham towards the end of the 16th cent., it was completed by the Cockaynes, who purchased it when the Tresham property was

confiscated for the complicity of the family in the Gunpowder Plot, and there is a priest's chamber in which is a curious group, in relief, representing the Crucifixion. The grounds (which may be viewed by previous written application to Mr Cruikshank, Rushton) are delightful. Here is the singular building, "The Triangular Lodge," one of the architectural caprices of Sir Thomas Tresham. It is supposed to be intended to honour the Trinity, but it is not unlikely that it is a far-fetched play on the builder's name, "Tres Same." Every detail of the building is in threes.

About 2 m. N. of Rushton is Pipwell, where was a Cistercian abbey of great magnificence and importance. Only a few mounds remain to mark the site.

SPRATTON, a good-sized village with a station on the line between Northampton and Market Harborough, about 7 m. N.W. of Northampton, stands on high ground. The church of St Luke, chiefly Trans. Norm., was restored by Sir Gilbert Scott in 1847. The tower is good, with a fine-pointed arcade on the belfry stage and the one above it; and the W. door is decorated with zigzag moulding and some grotesque heads. The chancel, which has undergone considerable change, has a single sedile, a leper window, and a piscina. Under the arches which divide the N. chantrey from the chancel is a tomb with an effigy of Sir John Swinford (1371), surrounded by an iron railing of the period. The effigy is remarkable as

THE TRIANGULAR LODGE, RUSHTON

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showing the earliest known example of the SS collar. In the churchyard (now closed) are the base and shaft of a stone cross, probably of the 14th cent.

STAMFORD BARON is that lesser portion of the town of Stamford which lies on the S. bank of the Welland, and is situated in Northamptonshire. The Lincolnshire "burgh" was a royal one, while the other quarter belonged to the Abbot of Peterborough, who held by baronial tenure, hence the name. Adjoining the Ermine Street, and having the Great North Road running through its long picturesque street, its history has been a stirring one, and many an English army has it seen passing through its midst. It must have been coeval with the royal town opposite, which was one of the five burghs in the Danelagh which had special privileges granted to its citizens by its fierce Danish invaders.

St Martin's Church, famous as the burial-place of the Cecils, is an entirely Perpendicular erection, without any admixture of earlier styles, the previous church having been destroyed by the Lancastrians in 1461, and rebuilt twenty years later. It has the usual rich exterior of the style with a tower of four stages. The effect of the interior, owing to the height of the nave and the fine old stained glass, taken from many a desecrated church, is remarkably fine. There is a chancel of four bays, with a lady chapel on the N., and beyond that a modern mortuary chapel added in 1864.

The tomb of the great Lord Burleigh, an imposing cenotaph, almost fills up the arch between the aisle and chancel. He died in London, August 4th, 1598, and it was the 28th of the month before the body was conveyed to its final resting-place. On that day, two funeral ceremonies took place, one at Westminster, the other at Stamford. Cecil had specially mentioned in his will that he had already provided a burial-place.

The handsome tomb of marble and alabaster which covers his remains is a striking example of the ornate architecture of the period. Many of the details remind one naturally of the house in which he dwelt. Lord Burleigh's recumbent figure is in armour, he is habited in the mantle of the Garter, and holds in his left hand his wand of office.

In the new chapel are modern monuments of the Exeter family, and one to John, the fifth earl (d. 1700), and Ann his countess, a pretentious tomb of huge dimensions, removed from the aisle, where it originally stood.

Just near the bridge a bedehouse for twelve poor men and a warden, erected and endowed by Cecil a year before his death, still stands with its picturesque front and gables. An old water-arch and a Norm. capital which have been worked into the later building, are doubtless the remains of a Benedictine nunnery which was founded in the 12th cent. by William de Waterville, Abbot of Peterborough, and which, according to Francis Peck, was standing in

LORD BURGHLEY'S MONUMENT

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1727. The church was said to have been of great beauty.

BURGHLEY HOUSE "by Stamford Town" is one of our great English homes, worthily ranking with Hatfield and Chatsworth, and indissolubly bound up with the history of our land. It stands just a mile and a half from the bridge over the Welland, which divides Northamptonshire from Lincolnshire, in a richly wooded park of some seven miles in circumference, that lacks, however, the wild and ancient character of others of our sylvan chases.

Burghley most probably derives its name from the "ley" or pasture of the burgh (Peterborough), from whose abbot its former lords, the De Burghleys, held it in fee farm. Early in the 16th cent. the estate came into the hands of its present possessors, the Sitsilts or Cycills, a name which merged later on into the present form of Cecil. But little is known of the first manor house. Burleigh added the great hall and kitchen to it in 1553-64, and in spite of his complaint of "being the poorest lord in England," he built the vast mansion between 1577 and 1587.

The later years of Elizabeth was a period prolific in great houses, for there was hardly one of her counsellors or favourites who did not raise for himself a mansion on the fruits of her munificence. Northamptonshire has more than its share of these stately homes. Sir Christopher Hatton erected the vast palaces of

Holdenby and Kirby, while Cecil's biographer quaintly says of him :—"He built three houses —one in London (in the Strand) for Necessity, another at Burleigh of Computency, for the mansion of his Barony, and another at Waltham (Theobalds) for his younger son." Of these Burleigh has alone survived, and still exists in all its pristine glory.

It has been too lightly assumed that Burleigh House was built in the ten years between 1577 and 1587, both of which dates appear on the stonework of the W. and N. entrances; but Mr J. Alfred Gotch has gone exhaustively into the question of its dates. The history of its erection is not easy to read, but the evidence adduced shows plainly that, as early as 1553, Cecil must have begun to build on the manor house belonging to his mother, and the architectural details prove that the E. end, which comprises the kitchen and the great hall, was probably refashioned between 1553 and 1564, after which there came a cessation of work until 1577. Cecil's ideas must have developed with his increasing prosperity: he resolved to build a house suitable to his rank and prospects, and so he completed it as it at present stands.

It is somewhat of a debated point as to the architect employed, but the consensus of opinion now seems to be that Thorpe, the architect of Kirby Hall, is responsible at least for the design of Burleigh. Walpole in his day and Gotch in ours adopt this view, the latter instancing the great resemblance the design bears to Wollaton

(Notts), of which Thorpe was the acknowledged architect. His plans of the ground floor and first floor are preserved in the Soane Museum, and afford additional argument in his favour.

The house, in the form of a parallelogram, is built round a central court. Though Burleigh is one of our finest specimens of Renaissance architecture, it is yet hardly so satisfactory as Hatfield, owing to its faulty grouping and comparative poverty of detail. It undoubtedly suffers from the absence of the formal adjuncts which it must have had in the shape of terraces and garden walls, swept away by "Capability" Brown in his otherwise laudable improvements, and which deprive the building of an effective elevation and tend to give it something of "a dumped down" look.

The interior has now but little to show of its original Elizabethan work, having undergone sweeping alterations in each succeeding century to meet modern requirements. The picturesque kitchen with its vaulted roof and the great hall alone retain their pristine appearance, if we except a fine stone-vaulted staircase in the N. front, the only one of the kind in England. Most of the additions have no doubt added to the convenience of the building, notably the corridors round the courtyard, which give covered access to the rooms on the ground floor. Hardly any of the woodwork and panelling dates from earlier than the end of the seventeenth century. That fine carver Grinling Gibbons has contributed many of his most exquisite productions,

while the walls and ceiling of the principal apartments were decorated by Verrio and Laguerre, whose fame that sarcastic and oft-quoted line of Pope, "where sprawl the saints of Verrio and Laguerre," has unjustly depreciated. The former artist passed many years at Burleigh, being admitted into the Earl's family circle. He is said to have been a great epicure, and the cook on one occasion not having succeeded in pleasing him, he vented his anger by placing the portrait of "Monsieur le Chef" among the lost spirits in the Inferno that Verrio was just then painting on the Grand Staircase.

The *Great Hall* is very striking with its original open-work roof of oak, and is perhaps the oldest portion of the house. It was not improbably modelled on an earlier hall. It certainly in its characteristics has much of a Gothic quality in the design. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert dined here on their visit in 1841, and it has since been known as Queen Victoria's Hall. It is of fine dimensions, measuring 68 feet by 30, and very lofty, being 66 feet in height. It contains several fine portraits: Sir Walter Raleigh, after Gheeraedts; the eccentric Charles Mordaunt, Earl of Peterborough, by Vanloo; George I. and II., and his Queen Caroline, by Michael Dahl, and a copy from Winterhalter of Prince Albert, and presented by him to the Marquis of Exeter.

Burghley has had several royal visitors. It is sad to have to dispel the legend that lingers so persistently of the visits of Elizabeth, but it is

BURGHLEY HOUSE

pretty certain that the Virgin Queen never set foot in Burghley, but stayed at her Chancellor's town house in Stamford, a fever preventing her appearance at his palace. James I. stayed at Burghley on his progress from Scotland to London, and was received with great magnificence, "the house seeming so rich as if it has been furnished at the charge of an emperor." Cromwell visited it in quite another fashion, plied it with shot, and then stormed it, doing, however, but little damage. Tradition has it that he afterwards presented Lady Exeter with his portrait by Walker as a peace-offering, and the picture certainly hangs in the Pagoda Room to give point to the tale. Dutch William visited Burghley twice, and is said to have remarked that "the house was too large for a subject."

Extensive preparations were made to receive George IV. on one occasion, but unforeseen circumstances interfered to prevent the coming of the "first gentleman in Europe." Matthew Prior was at one time much at Burghley, the Earl being his patron; and Walpole writes that "he added celebrity to the place by his pleasing verses."

The house is a museum of art treasures—tapestry, carvings, bronzes, mosaics, etc., being scattered in rich profusion throughout every room; while the hundreds of pictures that adorn its walls give a striking idea of the cultivated taste that prevailed among the English nobility in the 17th and 18th cents. The majority of these are of the later Italian schools, that of Venice being pre-eminent. Albano,

Guido, Bellini, and that picturesque artist Paul Veronese are well represented, the last named having no less than nine canvases, and there is a remarkably fine Titian. One of the most popular pictures is "Christ blessing the Bread," by Carlo Dolci. There are a few good examples of the Flemish school, two of John Van Eyck and seven or eight Vandycks, with some interesting Holbeins and Poussins. Of more modern artists, Angelica Kaufmann has fourteen of her classic subjects. The English school is not well represented. There are four family portraits by Sir Thomas Lawrence, and a single Romney.

Admission to the house may be obtained at the porter's lodge on the north front (minimum fee, one shilling for each person). Ascending the vaulted stone staircase, which deserves careful attention, the chapel room is reached. The pictures are principally Italian, but there are none of special interest. In the ante-chapel beyond are two Albert Durers, "The Queen of Heaven" and "St Clara" (on copper).

The altar-piece in the chapel is by Paul Veronese, and the carvings on the walls (festoons of fruit and flowers) by Gibbons. The fine chimney-pieces of coloured marbles are Portuguese work, from a convent near Lisbon.

The *Billiard Room* is principally devoted to portraits of the family. There are seven by Kneller, six Cecils, and one of the artist himself. Three of Lely's beauties are here, two Lady Exeters and a replica of Barbara, Duchess of Cleveland. That scarce artist, Dobson, an English painter

of distinction, though little known, has painted the first Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. Verrio contributes a portrait of himself. A most interesting presentment of Sir Isaac Newton is attributed to Lewis Crosse. The picture, however, that attracts the most attention is that by Sir Thomas Lawrence which hangs over the fireplace, and is one of the most successful efforts of his brush. It represents Henry, the tenth Earl of Exeter, Sarah, his Countess, and their daughter, Lady Sophia Cecil. The two former are the originals of the romantic episode on which Tennyson founded his charming ballad of the "Lord of Burleigh," and in which, while exercising some amount of poetic license, he has adhered fairly faithfully to the touching realities of the story.

The *Old Ball-Room* is covered with Laguerres, the subjects taken principally from Roman history, but the effect is hardly commensurate with the labour expended.

The *Brown Drawing-Room*, with more of Gibbons' work, has a varied assortment of pictures—a head by Rembrandt, a landscape by Ruysdael, and a so-called Michael Angelo. The most striking work is a "St Augustine" by Hugo van der Goes, an early Flemish artist, with many curious episodes from the life of the saint. There are two of the productions of that clever amateur artist the Rev. William Peters, who almost rivalled the *impasto* of Sir Joshua—one, a portrait of that frail beauty, La Vallière.

The *Black and Yellow Bedroom*, with the adjoining dressing-room, has more of Gibbons's work, and there is some fine tapestry. The pictures include two Guercinos, the flowers in one being by Maria da Fiori.

The so-called Queen Elizabeth's bedroom has the bed and furniture of the period, and some fine tapestry made for the fifth Earl, John. It was he who refused to take the oath to William III. in 1688 (which probably accounted for that monarch's sarcastic remark when he visited Burleigh), and led a retired life at his country seat, where he changed the whole face of the building—not always, it must be confessed, for the better.

The *Pagoda Room*, so called from a model of the Nankin Pagoda in mother-of-pearl, is perhaps the most attractive in the house, from the magnificent series of historical portraits that it contains. We note them much in the order in which they hang. Lady Rachael Russell, by Vandyck, a half-length: it is somewhat of a mystery how she could have sat to the artist, as he died in 1641, and she was not born until 1636. Vandyck has also a portrait of the celebrated William Cavendish, Duke of Newcastle, and one of Henrietta Maria, Queen of Charles I. David Garrick, by Dance, a half-length, seated; and portraits of Angelica Kaufmann and "Capability" Brown by the same artist. In royal portraits, Charles I. and his son Charles II., with his brothers and sisters when young, by John Stone. Henry VIII., a striking por-

trait of Edward VI. at the age of seven, and his half-sisters Mary and Elizabeth, all by Holbein. We also have Elizabeth in old age, by Mark Gheeraedts, in a yellow wig; and portrait of Charles IX. of France (artist not known). There is a head of Martin Luther, a panel by Cranach, dated, with monogram. Next to it hangs the portrait of Oliver Cromwell by Walker, before referred to. Lord Treasurer Burghley, by Mark Gheeraedts, is the most esteemed portrait of the astute Chancellor, and with his garb of formal cut, and stern, unfathomable countenance, he looks a personality rather to be feared than loved. That fine colourist Janssen has three portraits of the Cecils. One, of Lady Dorothy Nevill, first wife of the first Earl, was greatly admired by Dr Waagens on his visit to Burghley. Two fine portraits are those of Isabella, daughter of Philip II. of Spain, by Massoni, in a rich dress; and Elizabeth's favourite, the Earl of Essex, by Zuccaro. The Countess of Desmond, by Rembrandt, is more likely the mother of the artist.

In the *Purple Satin Bedroom* and dressing-room there is not much to arrest us. "Susanna and the Elders," by Caravaggio, is very characteristic of the artist; and there is a "Virgin and Child," by Castiglione, a gift of Pope Clement to the ninth Earl.

The *State Bedroom*, one of a set on the S. side called the "George" rooms, is decorated with mythological paintings by Verrio. There is a fine example of N. Poussin, "Angels with the

Instruments of the Passion appearing to the Infant Saviour"; a boy with a pigeon, by Guido; a good Albano, and an admirable "Finding of Moses," attributed to Titian.

In the Jewel Closet opening out of this room is the famous Carlo Dolci, "Christ Blessing the Bread," of which there is a replica in the Dresden Museum. A glass case contains several relics of our kings and queens, including a rosary of Mary Stuart.

The second *State Bedroom*, set apart for members of the Royal Family, is hung with good tapestry of an early date, with views of Burghley and Wothorpe in the borders; the pictures are mostly by Angelica Kaufmann.

In the *Great Drawing-Room*, which has a wonderful classical ceiling by Verrio, the pictures most worthy of notice are two charming landscapes by Claude Loraine, and a Holy Family by Andrea del Sarto. A striking portrait of the Countess Matilda is attributed to Cimabue, but is hardly likely to be of so early a date. Lovers of china will here find much to attract them. Some of the best decorative work of Verrio is in the breakfast room, which also has some fine cabinets and china. The walls of the great staircase and hall, which mark the limit of the visitor's round, were painted by Stothard.

Up to the middle of the 18th cent. Burghley preserved the ground and gardens designed by its founder, and we can well imagine how he surrounded the mansion of his barony with

terraces, alleys, parterres, and statuary after the manner of the time.

"Capability" Brown swept away all this with a ruthless hand, widening the landscape and forming the lake, but these improvements hardly compensate for robbing the house of much of its old surroundings, and from which, judging by an old print of 1753 and a drawing by Haynes of 1757, it rose up far more effectively than at present.

The ruins of Wothorpe, about a mile from Burghley, and built by Thomas Cecil, Earl of Exeter, make a picturesque adjunct to the wooded site they occupy. Fuller, in his "Worthies," calls it "the least of noble houses and best of lodges." One feature in its plan was interesting, in that its great hall was intended rather as an entrance than as the principal dwelling room.

Stanford, a handful of houses constituting a parish, stands close to the Leicestershire border by the Avon, and has a station on the Rugby and Stamford line. The church of St Nicholas, Early Dec. (and doubtless the work of the Benedictines of Selby), has a great deal of very fine 14th-cent. glass of particular interest, of which the earliest is in the E. window. Nearly all of it has been rearranged—not by any means skilfully—but by a priceless piece of luck escaped devastation at the hands of the Roundheads. The lower portion of the E. window is of later date, and several of the Cave family (one of whom, Thomas, who came of an old Yorkshire stock, bought the manor from the Crown after the Dissolution), figure in it. The organ, which

came from Magdalen College, Oxford, was originally the one in Whitehall Palace, but it has been much modernised. The Cave effigies are numerous and interesting.

Stanford Hall, a fine Queen Anne mansion of brick with stone facings, is in Leicestershire.

Stanion, 6 miles from Kettering, on the Stamford road, is a small and, but for its church, an uninteresting though picturesque village. The church of St Peter has a slender graceful tower and broached spire and a fine Perp. font. Other objects of interest are the low side window in the chancel, the N. chapel, and the curious arch under the E. window.

Staverton, a village on the Leam, by the Warwickshire border, has an interesting church (Dec. and Perp.) to St Mary the Virgin, with rather curious narrow arches in the main arcade. There is a quaint Elizabethan monument in the N. chapel with a brass to Thomas Wylmer and his wife (1580), in which the figures are shown kneeling at a desk. The high ground from the village towards Catesby is the watershed from which the chief rivers of the county flow.

Steane, a parish with a few farm-houses (in one of which is incorporated all that remains of the old manor house) and a handful of cottages, is midway between the station at Farthingho and Brackley. The manor house with which the interesting Crewe family are associated was acquired by them by the marriage of Sir Thomas Crewe with the heiress of the Brays in Elizabeth's day. It then passed to Nathaniel

STANION

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Crewe, Bishop of Durham, who died here in 1721, and who was the first, both spiritual and temporal peer, in this country.

The small rectangular chapel of St Peter (attached to Hinton) is near a residence (once a farm-house) which contains in its kitchens some remains of the manor house pulled down about 1740. Nathaniel Crewe, Bishop of Durham, was clerk of the closet to Charles II., and the altar vestments, the pulpit, and reading-desk were brought here from the Chapel Royal, St James's. There is also the Bible and Prayer-Book of Charles II., six prayer-books bearing the initials and arms of William III., and several Crewe monuments (portrait effigies by Nicholas Stone), and banners of interest (in the N. chapel).

STOKE ALBANY, five miles east of Market Harborough (see Dingley), is a quaint, old-fashioned village, conspicuous in which are the remains of the once fine residence of the De Rooses of Belvoir Castle, who were lords of this manor. The church of St Botolph is very ancient. Over the porch is a sun-dial with the motto "Non sine lumine," and a board bearing the following admonition—"Take notice men are desired to scrape their shoes and the women to take off their Pattens before they enter this church."

In the porch is a great curiosity, *i.e.* a monumental tablet with this inscription: "Here lyeth ye Body of Frances Parker who gave to ye Pore of This Parish Ten Shillings A Yerae To be paid of Lamas Day every Yeare. For

Ever, Upon This Grave Stone. February ye 4th, 1683." On the stone seat beneath are the holes in which the coins were placed.

In the north wall of the chancel is an arch marking the tomb of John de Roos, the friend ("le bon compagnon") of Edward III. In Bridges' time there was within this arch the effigy of a man fully armed. In the *Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. lxiii., p. 115, is an account of the breaking up, and burial under the chancel floor, of this ancient figure because it offended the sight of the wife of the then rector! On the S. wall of the chancel is a tablet to Lord Denman, who died in this parish in 1854, and is buried in the churchyard close N. of the chancel, where, on his tombstone, it is recorded that "by giving two extra years of sittings he rendered delays almost impossible in all our courts"!

Stoke Bruern is a village 1½ m. from Roade (N.W.), and 4 m. N.E. of Towcester. The Grand Junction Canal runs through the village, and is carried on a level above some of the houses in the lower part. From the valley there are several locks to raise the water, and the southern end of the Blisworth Tunnel, through which the canal passes for about 2 miles, is just beyond the village. The church of St Mary stands high, and is in the main Perp., but has some Norm. work in the inside of the tower. The oak screen and pulpit are comparatively modern. There is a good brass of the first Reformation period to a former rector (1625). Both aisles have retained their piscinæ.

Stoke Park, a stone mansion in a well wooded park to the left of the railway, was begun in 1603 by Sir Francis Crane. He had established a tapestry manufactory at Mortlake, and in designing the house had the help of Inigo Jones. Charles I. frequently stayed here, and Amelia, daughter of George III., was also a visitor.

A mile to the west of the village is the large hamlet of Shutlanger, where there is an old building, probably a chapel to the residence for the nuns of the Cistercian foundation at Stardesley. It has been divided up into cottage tenements. There is a fine groined porch on the S. side. Two of the 18th-cent. inmates lived to see some years over their hundred. The centre part of the house was burnt down some years ago, leaving the two wings, to the back of one of which a new house has been built.

Stowe (called "Nine Churches," its old dedication to St Ninian) consists of Upper and Church Stowe, and stands on a hilly ridge between Weedon and Towcester, along the side of the old Watling Street, about 2 m. S.E. from the first village. The church of St Michael (built for the most part of ironstone, locally called Duston stone, which has acquired a good colour), with its lych gate, stands well on a slope overlooking a pleasantly-wooded prospect, Brington and Northampton being included in a view which ranges over hills of medium height and clusters of farm-houses. The tower is all that is left of the original Saxon building

with the exception of two portions of Saxon crosses, one of which exhibits a plaited or knotted pattern of very unusual design. The tower, not so good as those at Earls Barton and Barnack, is full of rugged dignity. There is a large tympanum over the doorway of the arch opening into the nave, which is Norm. The chancel was rebuilt at the time of the restoration of the church in 1860, but the general aspect of antiquity has been well kept.

The monuments are of particular interest. The effigy of Lady Elizabeth, daughter of Lord Latimer, successively the wife of Sir John Danvers and Sir Edmund Carey, is by the famous master-mason of Charles I., Nicholas Stone; and in an entry in the earliest of parish registers (which may be a copy of a note made by the sculptor) it is stated that he undertook to make a tomb for this lady in 1617 "all of whit marbell and touch." This was a hard black stone used in the testing of gold by noting the colour of the streak made thereon by the metal. Elizabeth, Dame Carey died in 1630. The effigy of Purbeck marble, beautifully preserved, to Sir Gerard de Insula, or de Lisle, is on a modern tomb on the N. side of the chancel. The fine martial figure is in mail and carries a shield on the left arm. The old house of the Danvers', now a farm, is on the S. of the churchyard, and the Jacobean oak panelling in the dining-room is the envy of many a collector. There are some good old houses with projecting oriels (probably Elizabethan) in the village.

Strixton is a tiny village 4½ miles S.E. of Wellingborough. The church of St John the Baptist (the old dedication was to the local saint, St Romwald) is interesting as an architectural model, the original E. E. structure having been rebuilt, stone by stone, on exactly the original plan. Over the W. gable is a bell-cot, and a staircase (contained in the angle of the wall) leads up to it. In the chancel, by the side of a curious low window, is a double piscina. During the rebuilding in 1874, the tomb of a priest in the S. wall came to light, containing a skeleton and some altar vessels. Over the W. door is a very good sex-foil window.

SUDBOROUGH, an important village 3 m. N.W. of Thrapston, has some good residential houses. Brewing and brick-making are carried on to some extent here. The church of All Saints is chiefly E.E. and Dec. It contains some interesting architectural details, notably the sedilia and piscina on S. side of chancel. The cross-legged figure, under an arch in the N. wall of the chancel, represents Sir Robert de Vere, standard-bearer to William Longespre, Earl of Salisbury. He was slain with his master in the Holy Land. At the E. end of N. aisle are figures in brass to the West family, one of whom is described as a "Marbler," signifying that he was a carver of stone figures, etc. The makers of alabaster effigies in Derbyshire were so described.

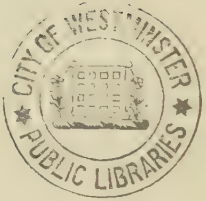
SULGRAVE, a small, old-fashioned village, is 2 m. from Helmdon on the line between Northampton and Banbury, and 3 m. from

Culworth (G.C.R.), or from Morton Pinkney (E. & W.J.R.). The Washington manor house was begun on a scale of considerable importance by the Laurence Washington who had retired here after the manor and the priory lands of Sulgrave had been granted to him by Henry VIII. on the dissolution of the monasteries, and for some fifty years Sulgrave was the home of his family. Failing fortune, however, did not permit of the family retaining it, and the manor house was never completed on the original plan. The oldest portion is the porch with its high gable over it. In the spandrils of the doorway the bars and mullets of the Washington arms can be seen.

When visited by Washington Irving at the beginning of last century, the manor house still possessed stained glass with the family arms in the kitchen window. This glass is there no longer, but what are probably remnants of it are still to be seen in the neighbourhood at Weston Hall and Fawsley.

The church of St James is Perp., but not a very good specimen. It is interesting, as the Washingtons worshipped and were buried here. At the E. end of the S. aisle is the tomb of Laurence Washington, a stone slab, on which were originally six separate brasses. One was a shield of the Washington arms; one represented Laurence, and another his wife; two more showed their four sons and seven daughters; and the sixth contained the following inscription, in quaint black letter:—

SULGRAVE — III. WASHINGTON MANOR HOUSE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HERE LYETH BURIED YE BODYS OF LAURENCE WASSHYNGTO GENT & AMEE HYS WYF BY WHOME HE HAD ISSUE IIII SONS & III DAUGHTS WC LAURENCE DYED YE DAY OF AND 15 & AMEE DECEASSED THE IJ DAY OF OCTOBER AND DNI 1564.

Of these six brasses, that representing Amee Washington and a part of that of her husband have long been missing; and in 1899 the two brasses of the sons and daughters were stolen. From a drawing in existence the costumes are known to have been the ordinary attire of well-to-do yeomen of the middle of the 16th cent. The father was shown in a close-fitting doublet, a loose gown with sleeves edged with fur, and broad-toed shoes. The boys wore large doublets, knee-breeches, long hose, and shoes; while the girls had close-fitting caps, with long gowns secured with a waist band. The date of the wife's death was inserted, whilst that of the husband's decease, as was the custom, was left blank to be filled in. He died in 1583, but the date was never added.

SUTTON, a tiny village about a mile from S.E. of Wansford Station and 6 S. of Peterborough, has a little Norm. church to St Michael. The tower, stone choir-screen, and the stone bench along the wall of the S. aisle are curious.

Tansor (L.N.W), 2 m. from Oundle Station, has a church (B. Virgin) remarkable for a dis-

proportionately long nave with a very small chancel. It is indeed a most singular interior. There is a perceptible slope from E. to W. and towards the S., and the nave piers are of Norm. and later date intermixed. There is a brass to John Colt, rector (d. 1440).

Thenford, in the pleasant country near Banbury, is a tiny village 1½ m. to the N. of Farthingho. The church of St Mary has a Trans. Norm. arcade, a Perp. tower, and Dec. chancel (which has a piscina), and aisles. A tomb with effigy in good preservation is said to be that of Fulk Woodhul (1613), the ancestor of Michael Woodhul, a well-known collector of books whose library was dispersed a few years ago. Thenford House is a stone mansion standing in well-wooded grounds. To the N.W. of the church, in Seabridge Close, sometimes called Arbury (see Badby), is the site of a probable Roman burial-ground.

Thornhaugh, formerly and more correctly written Thornhaw (*i.e.* Thorn Hedge), is a village one m. N. of Wansford. The church of St Andrew has some Norm. work. There is an E.E. piscina in the chancel, and in the S. transept is a large monument to Sir Wm. Russell, first Lord Russell of Thornhaugh (d. 1613).

Thorpe Achurch (N.W.R.) is a small village 3 m. north of Thrapston. The tower and chancel of the church of St John Baptist were built in 1218 by the crusader, Asceline de Waterville, whose tomb is on the S. side of the chancel. The large marble monument to

Sir Thomas Powys (1719) was formerly in Lilford Church, and was moved here when that building was pulled down at the end of the 18th cent. There are other memorials to the Lilford family from 1804. The rectory house dates from about 1633. Robert Browne, the notorious founder of the curious sect of the Brownists, was rector from 1592-1630. The village of Achurch, on the S. bank of the Nene, forms part of this parish.

An old barn with a fine oak timbered roof is all that remains of the banqueting-hall of a castle, first erected by the Watervilles, lords of the manor from Domesday until Edward III.'s day. About 1270 it was acquired by Walter de Langton, Bishop of Lichfield (and Coventry in those days), who considerably enlarged it, laying the woods of Pipwell Abbey, near Great Oakley, under heavy contribution, much to the disgust of the monks. There is an old bridge about the date of this castle over a stream which joins the Nene at Achurch.

THORPE MALSOR, 2½ m. W. of Kettering, was overlooked by the compilers of Domesday, and as it lies off the high road may easily be missed by the tourist. Its village street, with overhanging trees on one side and cottages with trim, old-fashioned gardens on the other, is particularly attractive to the artist. The well, dated 1589, has a Greek inscription exhorting the thirsty wayfarer to worship. The church of St Leonard is Dec., and was restored in 1877. It has one of the most beautiful in-

teriors in this district. Over the S. porch is a priest's chamber. Thorpe Hall is a fine Jacobean mansion standing in delightful grounds. The celebrated antiquary Robert Talbot was born in the parish, and was rector in 1546.

Thorpe Mandeville is a small village standing on high ground overlooking well wooded country, 3 m. N. of Farthingho and 4 N.W. of Helmdon. The saddleback tower is a very interesting feature of the church of St John the Baptist. On the W. side the gable is flush with the wall, on which is a figure of the patron saint, and on the other side it is set back and a passage runs round it. It is most probably Dec. The old manor house, which stood to the W. of the church, belonged to the Kirtons, who were related to Cromwell. There is a mural monument to Thomas Kirton (1597) and his wife Mary (1601), with effigies of these two and their thirteen children.

TICHMARSH (into which name a "t" still often wrongly creeps) is a village crowning a ridge of some 90 feet high which runs along by the Nene, 2 m. N.E. of Thrapston. Its name signifies goats' marsh, and is derived from the A.S. "Tyccen." Adjoining the village, on the estate of Lord Lilford, is a portion called Castle Ground, the site of a castellated mansion called Tichmarsh Castle, which formerly stood there. Traces of the moat remain, and the foundations of the boundary wall were exposed to view during some excavations made with a view of ascertaining the area of the building, in 1887. Sir

Henry Dryden, the well-known antiquary, who superintended the excavations, surmised—no doubt correctly—that there were two castles at different times, and that the first one consisted of irregular wooden buildings contained within a circular wall of stone. Bridges mentions that Sir John Lovell had licence from Edward I. to crenellate his "mansion house," and also that the previous building was probably built by one of the Ferrers family.

The term castle, as applied to a fortified dwelling house, is incorrect. It was used to cover such additions as oilets, allures, and battlements; but in the present instance it meant the addition of those more effectual defences, a moat and a strong outside wall.

The church of St Mary the Virgin, a fine edifice containing traces of three distinct buildings dating from Saxon times, is remarkable for its beautiful Perp. tower, almost unique in the district, and similar to the famous Somersetshire towers. It is apparently of the time of Edward IV. The parapet has eight pinnacles, and the ornamented bands which mark the four stages of the tower are worthy of notice. It is built of Weldon stone, into the composition of which shells largely enter, and has stood the test of time in a remarkable degree. A sculptured head of Henry VII. is on the top of the chancel arch facing E., and an interesting priest's door on the N. wall of the chancel contains some Norm. work.

A manor house formerly stood on the S. side of the church. It was acquired by Gilbert

Pickering in Edward VI.'s reign, and an overhead passage led from it to the parvise over the porch of the church, which was a chamber opening into the church used as a pew. The passage has been removed, but the chamber remains. An existing instance of such a passage may be seen at Lythe near Whitby, in Yorks. Mary Pickering, who married Erasmus Dryden in 1630, was the mother of John Dryden the poet, and in the letters patent making Dryden the Poet Laureate in 1680, the father is described as of Tichmarsh. The poet, who was born at Aldwincle, often visited this village and stayed with his cousin, Mrs Creed (one of the Pickering family), who is responsible for the mural decorations which cannot be said to enhance the beauty of the chancel of the church. She wrote most of the inscriptions on the family tombs, including one for Dryden's father and mother, which makes mention of the poet, stating that he was bred and had his first learning here. Above the tablet is an indifferent wooden bust of the poet.

The rectory is on the other side of the open space which surrounds the church, and on its lawn is the finest cedar of Lebanon in this country. It is some 74 feet high, and at the extremities of its farthest boughs reaches a circumference of over 100 feet. Its giant trunk is a curious mass of entwined limbs, while contrary to usual custom its boughs droop downwards and sweep the ground. It is still healthy, and its age must be about 300 years. There is also a fine

and productive mulberry tree in this interesting and well-kept garden At the S.E. corner of the village the mounds, and probably the moat, of a castle of the Lovells may be seen.

TOWCESTER (N.W.R), the Roman station of Lactodorum, and the Tovecestre of Domesday, is a good old market town of about 3000 inhabitants, on the river Tove, and on the N. of the old Watling Street, 8 m. S.W. of Northampton. Bury Mount, a mound to the N. of the church, now planted with fir trees (the trench has been filled up), is the "Burg" of Saxon days put up when the Danes were harassing the district. About the same time (921) the Saxon Chronicle states that a wall was erected round this "Burg at Tofeceastre," of which no traces remain. Baker gives a plan of the fortifications.

In the centre of the town is the church of St Laurence, of which the nave arcade is E.E., and the clerestory and aisle and fine W. tower, Perp., and the chancel Dec. (with the 17th-cent. roof erected by Sir Robert Banastre). The altar-tomb in the S. aisle, with buttressed shafts and open cusped arches, carries the recumbent effigy of a former rector, W. Sponne, Archdeacon of Norfolk (1448). He is shown vested in a long cassock, surplice, with a fur tippet, and in the open space beneath is a cadaver, or representation of the corpse. At the "restoration" of the church the effigy of Sponne was decapitated and the original wooden head replaced by one of stone, representing a civilian of at least a

century before. It was he who gave the "Talbot Inn" (then called the "Tabard") with lands belonging thereto to the town, and the money is devoted to the paving of the streets, and founded a small college or chancery to say Mass for his soul in the chapel at the E. end of the S. aisle of the church. The endowment was subsequently merged into the founding of the Sponne Grammar School. One of the old stalls, or a reading-desk to which are chained some black-letter books (a Bible, a Book of Homilies, and Foxe's "Book of Martyrs"), is in the S. aisle. The "Talbot" and the "Pomfret Arms" are two quaint old hostelries, and among some picturesque old houses is one in the market-place which is Early Tudor. Dean Swift was a frequent guest at the Talbot, and an old oak chair is still pointed out as the favourite seat of the Dean of St Patrick's. The "Pomfret Arms" was until 1830 known as the "Saracen's Head," and Dickens refers to it by this name in the "Pickwick Papers." The Town Hall and Corn Exchange was built in 1866. Boot-and-shoe making and brewing are the industries, and at Easter time the Grafton Hunt holds a steeple-chase here. The town and vicinity was the scene of many skirmishes during the Civil War.

On the outskirts of the town, by the N. bridge, there was a hospital for lepers dedicated as usual to St Leonard. There is a mention in the Pope rolls of John that Simon de Pateshull records the gift of 40s. in the year 1200 from

the king to the "patres leprosi" of Towcester. The hospital does not appear to have been standing after 1447.

Twywell, a small, pleasantly situated village, ½ m. from its station on N.R., 2½ from Thrapston, has a fine old manor house. The church of St Nicholas, one of the most interesting in the district, is chiefly Norm.; the door in S. porch is a remarkable example of that style. In the N. wall of nave are remains of an arch (probably an early transept) which resemble Saxon work. Note the Norm. font, the fine E.E. window into organ chamber. Against the N. wall of the sanctuary is a fine example of an "Easter Sepulchre," in which, in mediæval times, an effigy of the Saviour was placed on Good Friday, the parishioners assembling early on Easter morning to witness a realistic representation of the Resurrection. On the outside of the N. wall of the chancel are the remains of a piscina and credence, showing that anciently there was a chapel on that side of the building. Note the beautiful Norm. work over the blocked door near the tower, on the same wall; also the work under the battlement of the tower. Mrs Chapone, whose "Letters" were once much read, was born here.

Upton (L. & N.W.R.), 1½ m. W. of Northampton, is a tiny village on the Daventry road, with a roadside church containing monuments to the Knightley, Samwell, and Watson families. The church of St Michael is of little architectural interest. Harrington, the author of

"Oceana," was born in the adjoining manor house in 1611.

Wakerley, a little village, has in its church a Norm. chancel arch of great beauty, which for its size is perhaps the finest in the kingdom.

WALGRAVE (L.N.W.), 4 m. from Lamport Station, a large and increasing village, where army boots are extensively made, lies 9 m. from Northampton. Its church (St Peter) is an interesting early Dec. structure, with a fine broach spire. The chancel is wider than the nave, and the E. window has some fine tracery.

WANSFORD (formerly Wandsford, perhaps indicating that the ford was marked out by wands, or rods, of peeled willow) is a village on the Huntingdon border, 1 m. from its station. The Nene, which forms the boundary between the two counties, is here crossed by an old ten-arched bridge. The W. end of the church of St Mary is Saxon, and has a fine lancet window. This is of special interest, as portions of the sticks used to retain the splay of daubwork in the places bored in the stone framework of the light were found when the window was opened out, it being formerly hidden on the inside by the gallery, and on the outside by a tower of later date. There is a beautiful Norm. font, and a doorway (over which a porch was built in 1660) of the same period. The chancel was added at the restoration in 1902, the bases and responds of the old one, then brought to light, being used as a model.

Sibberton Lodge is an old farm-house, 1 m.

N.W. of the village, which tradition declares to have been an abbey. No history of it exists, but there is a large ancient burial-ground outside the house, and the remains of a groined crypt under the present dwelling. Two stone coffin lids, now in the churchyard, came from here.

Wappenham, a fair-sized village on high ground, has a station on the L. & N.W.R. between Northampton and Banbury, 5 m. S.W. of Towcester. The church of St Mary is in the main Dec. Both chancel, which is E.E., and the S. aisle have piscinæ. Its brasses are interesting. A marble slab, removed from Bittlesden Abbey, Bucks, after the Dissolution, has brasses to Sir Thomas Billing, a Chief-Justice of Edward IV.'s day (1481), and his wife (1479). The Judge wears official robes, and she a plain dress, with short waist and cuffs. The effigies of their eleven children and some heraldic ornaments are missing, but a few scrolls labelled Ihu mercy and lady helpe remain. Among other brasses are those to a son of the above Judge in complete armour (1500), and Sir Thos. Lovell and his dame (1492). Astwell Castle is situate in the parish. The tower, of Tudor date, and other portions are well preserved. The birth-chamber of the celebrated Countess of Huntingdon, foundress of the religious sect (1707), is here to be seen.

Great and Little Weldon form together a considerable village on the Stamford road, 9 m. from Kettering, and 2½ E. from Weedon and Corby Station (M.R.). It was once noted

for its markets, and is still so for its annual fair. Here are the Earl of Winchilsea's celebrated quarries of building stone, which have been noted for centuries, and from which the material for building old St Paul's Cathedral was obtained. On the village green is the old Roundhouse, and facing it a quaint old inn, the "King's Arms"; and in Little Weldon is the site of Hunter's Manor, which was the home of the *origina pack of Royal Buck-hounds*, fully described by Burrowes in his history of the Brocas family, and continued in the history of Rockingham Castle and the Watsons by Charles Wise. The curious so-called "Haunt-house" at the entrance of the village is worth inspecting. It is a singularly quaint building, of the date of Kirby Hall.

The church of St Mary is chiefly E.E. and Perp. The noticeable features are the beautiful double sedilia (with piscina) and a fine Dec. niche for a statue in the S. chapel. The entrances to the rood loft are to be seen in both the N. and S. aisles, and the porch has unusual triple arcades on each side.

WARKTON, about 2 m. E. from Kettering, shows charmingly from the Stamford Road. The church of St Edmund has a very fine Perp. tower. The W. door and the carving on the buttresses of the tower, which will be seen to be buttressed inside, are worth study. The aisles are divided from the nave by rather low Norman arches. The massive pillar on the N. of the nave is considerably larger in diameter than that on the S., and has foot ornaments on the base.

The bowl of the font was recovered from a field, where it was serving the cattle for a drinking-trough. The lower part is modern. There is a piscina in wall of S. aisle near the vestry door.

The very unsatisfactory chancel with its hideous E. window was the work of Ralph, first Duke of Montagu, who erected a capacious vault on the E. of the N. aisle, and had the chancel debased to its present form for the reception of monuments. This Ralph Montagu, second son of the second Baron Montagu, was ambassador from Charles II. to the Court of France, and occupied a rather conspicuous place in English history during the three succeeding reigns. He built and re-built (after its destruction by fire) his magnificent house in Bloomsbury, now the British Museum, and added the N. front to Boughton House, and laid out more than one hundred acres of ornamental grounds at Boughton House. His son John, second Duke of Montagu, married Mary, daughter of the celebrated Duke of Marlborough, and spent much of his great wealth in beautifying his estate at Boughton. He projected and carried out the grand idea of extending the Boughton vistas throughout the estate, and thus included seven parishes within that unique network of parallel rows of trees, a style of planting to be seen nowhere else in England on the same scale. His monument by Roubilliac is on the left of the chancel, and that to his wife, by the same sculptor, on the opposite side. Their daughter

Mary married George, fourth Earl of Cardigan, who was shortly after created third Duke of Montagu. At her death her husband erected to her memory the monument on the left near the altar. It is by Van Gelder, and it is one of the finest groups of statuary to be found in our churches. Their daughter Elizabeth married Henry, third Duke of Buccleuch, and thus brought the estates into that family. This lady, her husband, and many of their descendants are frequently mentioned in the Life of Sir Walter Scott. Her monument, by Campbell, is opposite to that of her mother. A small door in the E. wall of the N. aisle is the entrance of the vault in which about thirty of the family are buried. A fine view of a typical English landscape spreading out to the W. and S. may be obtained from the top of the hill on the Grafton road.

Warkworth, which lies close to the Oxfordshire border and the Cherwell, is 1½ m. from Banbury. Its church is interesting from the effigies and brasses it contains, but it has suffered sadly at the hands of the restorer. Almost the only old portion remaining is the E.E. nave arcade, and there are some open seats (15th cent.) with curved Latin inscriptions. Ancient lords of Warkworth were the Lyons and the Chetwodes, and there is a very fine altar tomb to the last of the first-named family (who was living in 1346). The tomb is high and narrow, and the effigy, the finest in the country, is a good example of the military costume of Edward

WARKWORTH—THE LYONS EFFIGY

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III.'s day. Most of the brasses were buried for some inexplicable reason at the time of the rebuilding of the upper storey of the tower and the wall of the N. aisle in 1841. Of the few that remain, those to John Chetwode (1420) and his wife (1430) are characteristic specimens.

Warmington (L.N.W., 3 m. from Oundle Station) is a straggling village on the Peterborough road. Its church (B.V.M.) is a fine specimen of E.E., with a really remarkable original nave roof groined in wood with exquisite details. It has a broach spire and three rows of spire lights, and the doorway of the tower has four rows of shafts adorned with a profusion of tooth and flower ornaments. It was an outlying manor of Peterborough Abbey.

Watford, a village ½ m. from Weedon Station, and 5 m. N.E. of Daventry, has, in its church of SS. Peter and Paul, some well contrasted specimens of late Dec. work. The S. porch is interesting as the moulding is Dec., while the dog-tooth ornament has been retained. Watford Court, a stone mansion near the church, approached by two splendid avenues, has some Elizabethan portions.

Weedon (N.W.) is 4½ m. from Daventry, set in a plain and level stretch on the edge of some of the prettiest part of the county. It has two designations besides its place-name in "Beck" (from Bec in Normandy, to which convent the manor was formerly assigned), and "on-the-street," from its position hard by the

famous way of Watling Street, which crossed the river just beyond the church. This place was chosen by the Ordnance Department for a barracks and a store, covering some 130 acres, when the threatened Napoleonic invasion of our isle was causing a stir. The barracks are on high ground above the Nene, which here flows through rather marshy ground and is much given to flooding. The church of St Peter is practically modern, and some fragments of grotesque heads at the end of the S. aisle are all that remain of the early building. On the S. side of the churchyard there was a chapel to St Werburgh, daughter of Wulfere, King of Mercia, who took the veil with her sister Erminilde at Ely, the sister of their mother, Sexburgh, daughter of the King of East Anglia being abbess there. St Werburgh afterwards had the direction of four religious houses and was buried at Chester. It was at Weedon where one of her convents was, and where the Mercian kings had a residence, that she was said to have performed the miracle by which all the wild geese which frequented the place were driven away never to return. In the churchyard there is a quaint tomb to a widow, Alice Old, who lived through all the reigns from Elizabeth to William and Mary.

Weedon Lois, a village 3 m. N. of Wappingham, was also known as Weedon Pinkney. It was the head of a barony mentioned in Domesday as Pinchengi. A mound on the village green is pointed out as the site of the castle of

this family. There is a reputed site also of a once famous well of St Lois, the waters of which were said to be of peculiar value in blindness and leprosy. The church of SS. Peter and Mary is a cruciform building, partly E.E., with a low embattled central tower, and possesses a Norm. font. In the park adjoining called church close, there was a small Benedictine priory, transferred at the end of the 14th cent. to the bistercian Abbey at Bittlesden. It was founded by Ghilo de Pinkney, in the time of Henry I., as a cell of the abbey of St Lucien-les-Beauvais. A former vicar, William Losse, shut himself up in the tower of the church, and successfully resisted the Parliamentary troopers sent to convey him to Northampton. The manor has passed to All Souls' College, Oxford, but the old house (1580) still stands. Weston Hall is an early 17th-cent. house.

Weekley, a small but interesting village, is pleasantly situated on the Stamford road, about 2 m. N. of Kettering. The stone and thatched cottages, each with a goodly piece of garden in front, and the handsome Vicarage, designed by Sir A. Blomfield, make a pleasing picture as the village is entered.

The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is generally described as E.E., but there are indications of a much earlier date, notably the early Norm. arched S. door, the interesting piscina in the N. chapel, and the early lancet window in the N. wall of the chancel. The tower is Dec., and the E. window of the S.

chapel Perp. The latest restoration was in 1873, under the direction of Sir A. Blomfield, when the vestry was added to the E. of the N. chapel, and a new E. window put in.

The recumbent effigy under the N. chapel window is that of Sir Edward Montagu, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. He was one of the executors of Henry VIII.'s will, and one of the guardians of the young king, Edward VI., whose Will he drew up, settling the succession upon the Lady Jane Grey, and was, consequently, on the accession of Mary imprisoned in the tower for two years, and on his release retired to Boughton to die. He purchased Boughton and several other Northamptonshire estates, and was the founder of the family of Montagu of Boughton. The canopied monument at the head of this tomb is in memory of his son, the second Sir Edward Montagu of Boughton, from whom sprang the Dukes of Manchester, of Kimbolton; the Earls of Sandwich, of Hinchinbrook; and other noted English families. The mural monument opposite is to the first Baron Montagu of Boughton, son of the former. He founded the handsome Hospital or Almshouse near the churchyard gate. In this chapel are buried the Honourable William Montagu, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and his "beautiful" lady, who both figure conspicuously in Pepys' Diary. On the outside of the S. chapel is one of those small openings, known as "Low-side Windows."

Adjoining the churchyard and facing the

WEEKLEY

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village green is the Montagu Hospital, or Almshouse, founded by Edward, first Baron Montagu, in 1611, for seven poor men and two women to attend to them. This interesting Jacobean building is a favourite study with architects. The founder's motto over the door, "What thou doest do yt in faythe," and that under the sun-dial (a modern addition), from Ovid's Fasti, "Tempora labuntur, tacitisque senescimus annis," are both appropriate, the first to the founder, and the second to the inmates of the house. The interior should be inspected, and the founder's quaint "Rules" read. Opposite to this building is one entrance to Boughton Park, which visitors can enter any day except Sunday.

Adjoining the hospital orchard is the school founded by Nicholas Latham in 1624. This charming old building is unfortunately marked out for demolition. The remains of a Roman road cross the Broad Avenue some distance up the field on the left of the Stamford road, by the second milestone from Kettering. There are the remains of a moated house, in the "Hall Yard," probably one of the old hunting-lodges for the accommodation of the kings, when the parish was included in Rockingham Forest.

Boughton House, which may be inspected on application, when the family are not in residence, is a building of many dates. The oldest remaining part is the Great Hall, in which are two 14th-cent. doorways. The latest part is

the N. front, erected by Ralph, first Duke of Montagu, towards the end of the 17th cent.; and here he entertained William III. and Queen Mary for a fortnight.

The objects of interest in this mansion are the frescoed ceilings, ascribed to Verrio; the examples of rare furniture; the extensive collection of rare and valuable tapestry; and a few good pictures, notably two cartoons ascribed to Raphael; the portrait of a lady by Cornelius Jansens, and some lovely flower pieces by Monnoyer, an artist employed by Duke Ralph to embellish his mansion (Montagu House) in Bloomsbury, now the British Museum. The park now contains little of interest except the fine timber. Formerly the Boughton Gardens were one of the great sights in the county. Duke Ralph laid them out on a similar plan to those at Versailles, where he had resided when ambassador to the French Court; he adorned them with fountains and statues, one of which, called "Stone Moses," may still be seen in Weekley. There is, in the British Museum, a plan of these ornamental grounds by T. Badeslade. Nothing now remains of them but the traces of the canal and ornamental waters (formed by holding back the waters of the Ise Brook), and the unique network of vistas, which intersect each other all over the estate. The larger part of these were planted early in the 18th cent., by John, second Duke of Montagu (hence called "John the Planter"), and were at one time said to

extend seventy miles, counting the short connecting vistas, most of which have disappeared. In the E. boundary wall of the park, on the road from Geddington to Grafton, is one of the old "deer-leaps."

A day or two can be most pleasantly spent in exploring these vistas, and the lovely woods with which they are connected. The central vista begins on the hill at the back of Warkton. It consists of very fine lime trees. On reaching Boughton Gardens there is a break across the park, but it is resumed (in a direct line) at the N.E. boundary of the park, and a double row of elms extends towards Stanion, through Geddington Chase, a fine remnant of old Rockingham Forest. At the centre of the Chase numerous "ridings" converge, each leading to vistas. That one which is crossed just after passing the first milestone from Kettering, on the Stamford road, is the S.W. outside vista of the system, which runs in a zigzag course through Weekley Hall Wood (another lovely bit of sylvan scenery) to Corby Wood, from whence it was formerly connected with the Deene Vista. It has a branch to the Chase. The S.E. outside vista also starts from the central one at the back of Warkton, and takes a most irregular course to Grafton Park Wood, whence it is connected with the Chase.

WELLINGBOROUGH (N.W.R.), 10 m. N.E. of Northampton, anciently Wendlesberie and Wendlyngburg, is a market town pleasantly situated on a hill overlooking the Nene. Its

modern name is attributed to its wells and fountains. Two or three centuries ago it had a reputation for a chalybeate spring called the Red Well, said to have been visited by Charles I. and his queen, who stayed at the White Swan. The town had in 1901 a population, which is rapidly increasing, of 18,412, having nearly doubled itself in the last thirty years. Its principal industry is the shoe trade. The approach from the Higham Ferrers road is picturesque with one or two quaint old houses. The Hind Hotel is a fine example of an old inn said to have been building when the Parliamentarians marched through on their way to Naseby.

The church of St Luke in the centre of the town is Wellingborough's one attraction, and has been well restored. It is built entirely of ironstone, and the first sight gives the impression that it is an entirely Perp. building. There is, however, much Dec. work, especially the nave and E. window, which has a fine effect from the exterior. Some of the timber roofing is good, and in a chantry chapel in the S. aisle there is a good panelled ceiling carved with emblems of the Crucifixion and a "squint." The *Miserere* stalls in the choir have some grotesque carvings of domestic scenes; one shows the artist himself shaping the roses which form the side ornaments with his tools on a table in front of him. Another, more humorous, represents an ale-wife filling the tankard for a thirsty customer. Close to the church and forming with it a striking group is the old Free School

founded in Edward VI.'s time from the plunder of a guild, but in its present form dating from 1619.

Weston Favell is a pretty village in the direction of Wellingborough, 2 m. N.E. of Northampton, the fine trees and the general woodland nature of the situation making it a typical hamlet. The little church of St Peter is chiefly Trans. Norm. Its spire was destroyed by lightning in 1726. In the vestry is a curious piece of needlework representing the Passover, dated 1698, and the work of the wife of Sir John Holman of Banbury. It formerly stood over the altar. James Hervey, the author of the "Meditations," was a former rector, and is buried within the sanctuary. There is a restored octagonal font, and a good oak pulpit of 16th-cent. work, with an hour-glass stand attached.

Whiston (L.N.W.), 1½ m. from Castle Ashby Station, a pleasant rural village 6 m. from Northampton.

The church, dedicated to the B. Virgin, stands on an eminence surrounded by trees, and consists of a nave and very short chancel, aisles, and embattled tower. It is interesting as being a fine specimen of late Perp. work, almost Tudor, having been built in 1534 by Anthony Catesby, the lord of the manor, by Isabel his wife, and John their son, as the fragments of an inscription show. All the original seat remains, and the stone-work and roofs are admirable.

Whittlebury (L.N.W.), a pleasant village on the outskirts of the forest, stands on high

ground 4 m. from Towcester Station. In olden days Whittlebury Forest comprised within its area more than 20,000 acres, but is now reduced to about one-quarter of its former extent.

The church is dedicated to the B. V. Mary, and contains a monument by Chantrey. Roman remains were found here in 1822.

Wilbarston, joining Stoke Albany, has some good substantial old houses, but none of historic interest. The church of All Saints is late Norm. or very E.E., and has been well restored. The interior view is very effective. The tower is massive, and offers an interesting study. Note the doorway in the S. porch, and the view from the churchyard.

Winwick is a tiny village midway between Yelvertoft and Crick Stations, about 5 m. from either. The church of St Michael stands well on high ground, and has an E.E. font, and the base of a Perp. rood screen. The old manor house, approached through a quaint arch with fluted pillars, is near the church.

Wittering, a little village to the left of Ufford Road Station, about 3 m. to the N.W. of Wansford, in the direction of Stamford, has a good example of a small Saxon church (All Saints). It consists of a nave and presbytery, or square chancel. There is long and short work in the quoins of the nave and chancel. The plain imposts of the chancel arch are of later work. The N. aisle is a Norm. addition, and the tower and spire E.E.

Woodford (near Thrapston, to distinguish

it from the other Woodford near Byfield) is on the Nene, 7 m. E. of Kettering. The very interesting church of St Mary the Virgin is E.E. and Dec. At the E. of the N. aisle are two curious wooden effigies, assigned to Sir Walter de Treylli, 1290, and his wife Eleanor (1316), whose dress still retains remains of the painted decoration, and a brass with figure of Simon Mallory (1580). During the restoration in 1867 a box containing some portion of human remains, probably a heart, came to light on taking down one of the capitals of the nave arcade. There was nothing to show to whom it had belonged.

Woodford (G.C.R), by the Cherwell, 2 m. E. of Byfield, takes in Woodford Halse and the hamlets of Hinton and W. Farndon, which were delightful old-world villages ere the railway came, and once rural lanes now display names of new streets on tablets. The old wooden pile bridge over the brook is also doomed, and will give way to a modern iron erection. The foot-path which leads up to it is of great antiquity, and possibly was there in Anglo-Saxon times. The church of St Mary is interesting. On the N. the arcade is E.E., and Dec. on the S. The old woodwork is good, and the 15th-cent. bench ends have been worked into the modern seating. There is a brass, with the figure of a priest, a former vicar, Nicholas Stafford (1400). In the chancel, which has a piscina, is a stone effigy of a female figure, Maud Holand (1330), which was discovered on the N. side during the

extensive restoration in 1878 of the church, some feet below the floor.

WOOTTON (L.N.W.), 2½ m. S. of Northampton, just off the London road, is a large, uninteresting village. The church of St George the Martyr has a good tower, with three old bells. There are chantry chapels at the W. end of each aisle, and a sedilia and piscina in the chancel. In 1844 a hoard of third Roman brass was discovered here, which ranged from Gallienus to Numerian.

YARDLEY HASTINGS (L.N.W.), Castle Ashby Station, 3½ m., is a large village 8 m. from Northampton, on the Bedford road. It takes its name from its lords, the De Hastings, in the 13th and 14th cents.

The church, probably from the connection of the manor with the royal line of Scotland, is dedicated to St Andrew, and is for the most part Dec. of two periods. The massive tower is probably Norm.

Adjoining it is a fragment of the old manor house, of much the same period as the church, forming with the church a picturesque group. Edward Lye, the celebrated scholar, and author of the Anglo-Saxon and Gothic Dictionary, is buried here (d. 1767).

Yelvertoft, a small village, 2 m. S. of its station, has a church (All Saints'), originally Dec., but with Perp. additions, which contains a fine tomb to a priest, Wm. Dyson, who was rector from 1445 to 1479, and who is shown in a dalmatic, an unusual vestment for a priest.

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